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Inter-Arab Affairs

Acting Arab League Head on Cairo Move Reports

JN1611114990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1125 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 16 Nov (INA)—As'ad al-As'ad, acting Arab League secretary general, has stressed that the reports circulated about the move of the Arab League headquarters to Cairo are a mere fabrication by the Egyptian media.

In a statement to the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ published today, al-As'ad said he told the Arab League employees who were illegally appointed by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that they will not be considered Arab League employees, and that their appointments are illegal because they were appointed after the Arab League was transferred out of Egypt 11 years ago. He pointed out that excesses have indeed been reported in the Arab League's work in Cairo and that the Arab League General Secretariat can say that this or that action is in violation of the Charter.

Further on Move Rejection

NC1611130690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Tunis, 16 Nov (MENA)—In a statement issued here today, an official spokesman for the Arab League General Secretariat has described as untrue a report published by the Tunisian newspaper AL- SHURUQ and attributed to As'ad al-As'ad, acting Arab League secretary general, concerning the Arab summit, the Arab League, and the Arab situation.

The spokesman described the report as baseless and a flight of fancy which aims to harm this Arab institution. He pointed out that the statements made by As'ad al-As'ad and other Arab League officials were and will always be within the context of the Arab League charter and Arab resolutions. The spokesman expressed the regret of the General Secretariat for such behavior and urged the media to be more careful and investigate the authenticity of their reports as dictated by the principles and norms of respectable press work.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Preparations Continue for Regional Summit

Indian Prime Minister to Attend

BK1511152790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, will lead a nine-member official delegation to the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit to be held in the Maldives capital, Male, from next Wednesday [21 November]. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the delegation will include the external affairs minister to be named; the principal secretary to the prime minister, B.G. Deshmukh; the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey; and senior officials.

Apart from the deliberations of the summit, the prime minister is also expected to have discussions with leaders from Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and other countries.

Nepalese Premier To Attend

BK1811123190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov. 18 (AFP)—Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai left here Sunday for Singapore on his way to Male to attend a summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), state radio reported.

During his one night stop over in Singapore, Mr. Bhattarai is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew for talks on regional and international issues including the Gulf crisis, a Nepalese Foreign Ministry source said.

Mr. Bhattarai will reach Male Monday on a commercial flight from Singapore. The SAARC summit opens Wednesday

Mr. Bhattarai is leading Nepal's delegation to the fifth SAARC summit in place of King Birendra, who led the delegation to the previous four summits but has since withdrawal from active politics.

Mr. Bhattarai is scheduled to return on 26 November after an overnight stop in New Delhi.

Pakistani Premier To Attend

BK1911144890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan, will lead his country's delegation to the fifth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] member countries beginning in the Maldivian capital of Male on Wednesday [21 November]. Official sources told the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today that the prime minister will depart for Male on Wednesday morning to attend the summit. He will meet various leaders attending the summit after the inaugural session. The sources say that the SAARC summit will provide an opportunity to the prime minister to hold bilateral meetings in addition to having formal talks with the leaders. The prime minister will also have an opportunity to hold useful talks with his Indian counterpart during the summit which will help in reducing the tension in relations between Pakistan and India caused by the recent struggle in the occupied Kashmir. The official sources in Islamabad have expressed the hope that the SAARC summit will help in promoting regional cooperation and development.

Afghan Membership Undecided

BK1811164490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers have endorsed a proposal to improve tourism and media exchanges as new areas of cooperation among South Asian countries. At the foreign ministers meeting at Male in Maldives this evening, the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, said for the greater success of the SAARC audio-visual exchange program, the SAARC secretariat should bring together journalists, news agencies and other representatives to enhance interaction among the SAARC countries.

Earlier, the SAARC standing committee which finalized its report to the SAARC council of ministers has recommended a number of steps for strengthening regional cooperation. It called for immediate measures for effectively implementing the regional convention on suppression of terrorism. Our special correspondent, Bahadur Singh, reports from Male that the standing committee comprising the foreign secretaries held its deliberations in an atmosphere devoid of any political controversy without referring to bilateral matters. Our correspondent, Rama Rao, adds that Afghanistan's fresh request for membership of the SAARC came up for consideration, but no consensus was reached. He said the meeting agreed to have exchange of information studies between the SAARC, the ASEAN, and the EEC so as to gain experience on such linkages.

Extended Cooperation Discussed

BK1911045890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] In Male, the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] Council of Ministers has agreed on the need for extending cooperation in the core areas of industry, trade, and energy. In a significant development, it endorsed the Indian stand that it is imperative to overcome the adverse economic effects of the Gulf crisis. It expressed the hope that a regional fund for the purpose will be finalized and action taken at the political level soon.

Our correspondent Rama Rao reports from Male that leaders of the delegations from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and host country Maldives agreed that New Delhi's suggestion for periodic consultations to put up a joint front in the international fora on the problem of South-South cooperation and evolve a common position for negotiations with the developed countries. The draft declaration of the summit is now being given finishing touches.

Narcotics Convention Discussed

BK1711035690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] India has announced its readiness to sign a regional convention to control the use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, told the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] standing committee meeting in Male that New Delhi has almost completed the formalities for the purpose. Our correspondent covering the meeting reports that the convention to be launched at the Male summit will help in checking the drug menace in a big way. There are about 8 million drug addicts in the South Asian region and the number is likely to go up to 30 million by the turn of this century if timely steps are not taken. Our correspondent says that the standing committee is also considering an experts report on the need to bring about uniformity in awarding penalties and drugs to be controlled in the seven-member SAARC countries.

Reviewing the progress of various regional programs, the foreign secretary stressed on greater cooperation in trade and industry. However, Mr. Dubey rejected the proposal for a regional fund for SAARC activities. He said New Delhi will maintain its present level of contribution of 20 million rupees for 1990-91 and 1992.

Bahrain

Canadian Defense Minister Meets Foreign Minister

JN1711115990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 17 Nov (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah today met with Canadian Defense Minister William McKnight, who is currently visiting the country.

Bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing current bilateral cooperation in all fields was discussed. The two ministers also fully addressed all aspects of the developments of the serious situation in the Gulf in the wake of the Iraqi military invasion and occupation of Kuwait and its effects on security and stability in this vital region of the world.

They also discussed the measures and actions being adopted and unanimously implemented by international society to force Iraq to unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait and acknowledge the return of legitimacy as represented by Kuwait Amir His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

Concludes Visit

JN1711120490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Manama, 17 Nov (WAKH)—Canadian Defense Minister William McKnight and the accompanying delegation left Manama this morning following a three-day visit to Bahrain.

The Canadian minister held talks with senior Bahraini officials on bilateral relations, ways of promoting them, and the latest developments of the Gulf crisis in view of the continued Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the international efforts under way to bring about Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy. Their talks also dealt with issues of mutual interest.

He was seen off by Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force; Lawrence Thomas Dickinson [name as received], Canadian ambassador to Bahrain; the assistant to the chief of staff; and senior Defense Force military officers.

Kuwait

Spokesman Says Proposed Arab Summit 'Futile'

LD1611202790 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1858 GMT 16 Nov 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, minister of state for National Assembly affairs and acting minister of information, expressed his belief that an Arab summit would be futile as long as the aggressive Iraqi regime insists on refusing to implement in full the resolutions of the UN Security Council, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the emergency Arab summit held in Cairo on 10 August. All these resolutions were explicit and unanimous in demanding that the Iraqi regime withdraw its occupation forces from all the territories of the State of Kuwait and in demanding the restoration of the legitimate Kuwait authorities.

This came in a statement by Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub to KUNA [KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY] commenting on the invitation addressed by the Moroccan monarch, King Hassan II, for holding an extraordinary Arab summit.

Al-Ya'qub said: I would like to express the appreciation of Kuwait, the government and people, of the noble historic stance adopted by His Majesty King Hassan and his decisiveness, since the first days of the treacherous Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, in rejecting the aggression and standing firmly by the side of right. This stemmed from his majesty's commitment to the defense of international legitimacy and order.

Al-Ya'qub added: The recent statements by the envoys of the Iraqi regime, who quite arrogantly insisted on the cancellation of the resolutions of the emergency Arab summit that was held in Cairo, as a condition for attending the summit for which His Majesty King Hassan II called recently, confirm the probability of the failure of such meetings.

Minister Rejects Denial of Atrocities in Kuwait

PM1611164390 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Minister al-Ya'qub Reveals With Facts Brutal Violations"]

[Text] Al-Ta'if, SAWT AL-KUWAIT—Kuwaiti Acting Information Minister Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub yesterday replied to the allegations made by the leader of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, and his failure to admit his forces' brutal practices in occupied Kuwait during an interview with Channel 3 of British television [ITV—Independent Television Network].

Dr. al-Ya'qub explained in detail what health establishments and their occupants have been exposed to, wondering about the reasons for Saddam's refusal to allow the International Red Cross to visit occupied Kuwait.

In his statement the acting information minister said: In that interview Saddam Husayn said he "knew nothing" about human rights violations or brutal practices in Kuwait. No one can let that statement pass without asking about its truth. If Saddam "knows nothing" about the accusations leveled at him, why does he insist on rejecting the appeals addressed to him to allow the International Red Cross to go to Kuwait? Even Nazi Germany allowed that organization to work during World War II.

Minister al-Ya'qub added: Kuwaiti citizens fleeing the country bring with them detailed pictures of the occupation forces' brutality. Letters and other means of communication coming from inside Kuwait give a clear picture of the brutal treatment of innocent Kuwaiti citizens, babies born prematurely, children, and adults.

Minister al-Ya'qub said: In its 3 October report Amnesty International described conditions inside Kuwait as "a terrible picture of large-scale arrests, torture under interrogation, summary executions, and mass murder." So if Saddam "knows nothing" about the brutal practices committed by his forces in Kuwait, let us give him a few examples: Officially sanctioned robberies have been carried out by the occupation forces in Kuwait. At the Amiri Hospital alone the following items have been stolen and moved to Baghdad: X-ray and kidney treatment equipment (from the intensive care unit), most of the incubators, physiotherapy equipment (from the maternity wing), and 111 ambulances (from the casualty wing).

From the blood bank laboratory equipment has been moved to Baghdad together with the necessary cooling equipment.

From the cancer treatment center the occupation forces have stolen operating room equipment as well as furniture and X-ray equipment. When the Kuwaiti doctor in charge of the hospital protested and asked the Iraqi officer in the name of humanity to leave some of the equipment needed for chronic cases, the latter shot him dead immediately in front of the hospital's staff.

Minister al-Ya'qub added: Saddam Husayn is the primary person directly responsible for the unprecedented operations of murder and torture. Thus he must be stopped, and there should be no room for bargaining with that barbaric person and his bloodthirsty regime. He has a history full of blood and also violence and repression which he has committed against the sons of his own people.

The dangerous thing would be for Saddam's endeavors and courtesy to media men to weaken the international community's determination against his aggression. We very much hope that that will not happen.

The issue remains an issue of unjustified occupation of a peaceful and sovereign state which has been exposed to a systematic campaign of brutal terror since the first day of the occupation.

Minister al-Ya'qub concluded by saying: Iraq must unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait, and by any possible means [as published].

UN Representative on Register of Citizens

LD1611210690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1858 GMT 16 Nov 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message"]

[Text] Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu al-Hasan, the Kuwaiti permanent representative to the United Nations, has said that the legitimate Kuwaiti Government has confirmed the existence of a register which includes the names of 1.8 million persons.

In a statement relayed by KUNA [KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY], Abu al-Hasan said he expects that the UN Security Council will, during the next few days, adopt a draft resolution agreeing to the Kuwaiti request to appoint UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar as custodian of the Kuwaiti civil register.

The draft resolution condemns the Iraqi attempts to alter the demographic structure of Kuwait and destroy the civil registers of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

The draft resolution also requests the UN secretary general to become the custodian of a copy of the civil register and asks him, together with the Kuwaiti Government, to specify the bases and conditions which govern access to and use of that register.

The Kuwaiti permanent UN representative added: These measures were adopted earlier when it became apparent that the Iraqis were trying to alter the demographic structure of Kuwait by settling Iraqis and other nationalities in Kuwait.

Abu al-Hasan revealed that there are 150,000 Iraqis in Kuwait. In this context he pointed out that the Kuwaiti Government intends, immediately on the removal of the Iraqi occupation, God willing, to deport all persons who were not registered by 1 August last.

Amir, Senegal's Diouf Agree To Postpone Summit

LD1611220790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 16 Nov (SPA)—In al-Ta'if today His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, received His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, president of the Republic of Senegal. The meeting was attended by His Highness Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Abd-al-Rahman Salim al-Utayki, advisor at His Highness's office; and a number of ministers.

His Highness the amir of Kuwait and the Senegalese president held a round of talks in the presence of the Kuwaiti and Senegalese sides.

Their talks dealt with the postponement of the 6th Islamic Conference Organization summit, which is to take place in the Senegalese capital Dakkar, to a later date to be agreed on with the leaders of Islamic countries. The two leaders also examined the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf situation and the two countries' relations. [passage omitted]

Oman

Qabus Announces New Council in Speech

NC1811194590 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The Sultanate today celebrates the 20th national day. His Majesty Sultan Qabus, the supreme commander of the armed forces, presided over the military parade which was held at Midan al-Fath in Wattayah this morning. [passage omitted]

His majesty then made a major historical speech. Addressing his countrymen, His Majesty Sultan Qabus said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Omanis were meeting on a day full of happiness, bright with hope, and glorious with pride and honor. They were meeting to crown 20 years of devoted efforts and renewed dedication to their prosperous march. They thank God who had created them and blessed them and asked Him to sustain them with further progress and prosperity.

His majesty said: Twenty years ago, Omanis undertook to work together for the renaissance of their beloved Oman, to build a modern state in their land, to elevate the standard of life for all. It was clear from the first that they would face a hard task and immense challenges. But they always had their faith in God and their determination and confidence in their country's inherent strength. For two decades they had renewed life in all parts of their country. The high morale shown by the people in their cooperation and solidarity had contributed immensely to their conquest of the hardships and difficulties which confronted them and to their continued successful progress. Today, on the 20th anniversary of their glorious national day, Omanis thank God for His guidance and for His magnificent achievement in establishing the strong foundation of their renaissance. They thank God for enabling their country to take its rightful place in the international community. These achievements spoke for themselves. They displayed the extent of what Omanis had done together in pursuit of their aspirations. There was now an immense difference between their present situation and that of 20 years ago.

Speaking to his countrymen, his majesty said: As Omanis embarked on a new decade of their march, they advanced from this foundation to broader and greater ambitions. This required them all to keep before them the tasks and responsibility which they must accept in order to maintain their progress, God willing, but only to consolidate and develop their great past achievements but also to enrich their renaissance with new gains. Thus their country would maintain its place and role in a changing world. In this belief and in meeting the requirements of this new era, Oman was preparing a complete strategy for the country to enter the 21st century. His majesty had issued directives to the government to study the basis and aims of this strategy. It must include all economic, social, and military sectors as well as the development of the government infrastructure. It must take into account an objective assessment of Omani experience in the past two decades. It must realistically and clearly take into account Omani capabilities and aims so as to become a working strategy for the state and an accepted basis for development plans and programs for the future.

His majesty said he intended to introduce Oman's fourth development plan next year. His majesty had commanded that priority must be given to the completion and furtherance of development programs in their respective areas, especially those in urgent need of new projects and services. At the same time his majesty stressed the importance of more intensive efforts in this coming era to develop the economy of the country through carefully prepared programs to achieve greater economic growth. His majesty especially stressed the necessity to continue emphasis on the exploitation of agriculture and fisheries resources so they could increasingly contribute to the national economy. Arising from continuous concern to promote our various productive resources and in the light of what had been achieved in the two years of agriculture, his majesty declared that 1991 should be the year of industry. It was to take into account traditional industries and professions together with their modern counterparts. The aim was to display the role of this sector as an important and productive one which significantly contributed to the national economy.

His majesty drew the attention of the government and the private sector to the necessity of a planned industrial development. It had to give priority to industries which relied on agricultural and fisheries products as well as those industries, both light and medium, which depended on local raw materials to meet the basic needs of the country and to provide employment for the Omani people. Encouragement should continue to be given to the traditional industries so they could reach their full potential.

His majesty said the formation of the State Consultative Council had been a distinguished experience which sprang from distinctive Omani traditions. It enabled the systems to participate more in the government's economic and social development efforts. It demonstrated the extent to which this participation could positively and effectively contribute to the construction and progress of the country. Thus his majesty was determined to continue to support this experiment and to enable the council to perform its role in the progress of the renaissance. The council had shown during its existence its ability to carry out its duties effectively, both in providing advice and in expressing opinions on the development plans and programs and in suggesting means to carry them out. This had clearly shown that the experiment had matured. It had assured the spirit of cooperation between the government and the people.

In appreciation of this success which this Omani experiment had achieved and in fulfillment of his majesty's promise to work for its development and to provide more opportunities for the Omani citizens' wider participation in the responsibilities and tasks in the construction of the fatherland, his majesty said he had decided on

the formation of a Majlis al-Shura [Consultative Council] in which all the wilayahs [provinces] of the Sultanate were to be represented. There would be no government membership of this majlis. The membership would be totally composed of representatives of the wilayahs. This was a further step on the road of participation which would serve the aspirations and ambitions of the citizens throughout Oman. His majesty said he had asked the concerned state authorities to make the necessary arrangements so that the majlis could begin its work, God willing, by the next national day. This step was taken in accordance with the principles of the glorious Islamic law and in compliance with the Islamic way to which Oman was attached. It was also in accordance with Oman's established tradition to work conscientiously and gradually at a pace which suited the life of the country.

[In a report on the sultan's National Day speech, Paris AFP in English at 1545 GMT on 18 November adds, "A member of the consultative council must be a Omani national and at least 30 years of age. His two-year stint is renewable."]

His majesty said Oman should be open to the experiments of others, to enrich the Omani experiment without imitation for the sake of imitation. His majesty said: Benefit to mankind was the object of all of Oman's development programs. At the same time, man was the effective means to carry them out. This is why over the past twenty years Oman has striven to improve the quality of life of its people and to prepare them to play their part in the construction of the fatherland. Efforts in this respect had been notably successful for which his majesty thanked God. His majesty said he had directed the government to provide all that was necessary to promote vocational training programs for the national workforce, in addition full support to be given to young people who were committed to the principles of self-employment and also to those who provided jobs for Omanis. The government had to assist young people by providing feasibility studies for small enterprises. His majesty said: Oman was now beginning a new era in the construction of the country. It was the duty of all Omanis to concentrate continuously. The great ambitions of nations and peoples were not achieved accidentally or by depending on others. They were only achieved through self-reliance, hard work, creative efforts, and wholehearted and responsible participation.

His majesty said he had consistently given special importance to the modernization of the Armed Forces, and today they had reached a standard of which every Omani could be proud. His majesty emphasized his determination to raise this standard to the highest degree so that they could perform their sacred national duty. His majesty saluted and congratulated all the branches of the gallant Armed Forces and expressed pride in them and appreciation of their distinguished alertness and readiness to defend our country. His majesty also saluted and congratulated all the branches of the security services for their devotion in carrying out their noble national duties in the service of society and ensuring its tranquility.

His majesty said the clear and objective policy Oman had adopted from the beginning in the conduct of its foreign affairs had been successful in establishing positive relations with other states and peoples. His majesty wished sincerely to develop such relations in the service of joint aims and interests and to contribute to peace and stability, both regionally and internationally.

Today his majesty reaffirmed the continuity of Omani policy which is based on belief in the principle of peaceful coexistence by all nations and states, mutual respect for national sovereignty, good neighborliness, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others. His majesty said: Oman would always work according to these principles and extend the hand of friendship and cooperation to all. Oman was also determined to play a constructive role in the international arena and to call continuously for the solution of all causes and problems between states by peaceful means.

His majesty reaffirmed the necessity to reach a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, based on the international resolutions, and to return the State of Kuwait to its legal authority. His majesty said as he continued efforts and consultations on current developments with the leaders of brotherly and friendly states he wished to express appreciation for the positive role carried out by his brother the custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. His majesty said he looked forward to the day when all his efforts would bring about a peaceful settlement of the crisis so the peoples of the region might once again direct their resources to construction and development in a climate of brotherliness, harmony, and mutual confidence, thus returning security and stability to the region and avoiding the danger of war and destruction.

His majesty said he wished to commend the serious and fruitful efforts of the Council of Ministers and those who are responsible for its activities in translating his majesty's policies and directives for the progress and advancement of our country. His majesty also commended the other organs of the state for their positive contribution to the constructive march. He expressed satisfaction with Oman information services for reflecting the country's policies towards all issues, regional and international. He noted in particular the integrity with which they projected events truthfully and objectively without exaggeration or distortion. At a time when the importance of the role of information was being increasingly felt by society and peoples, it was necessary to support the information services in order that they might perform their mission. His majesty called upon his countrymen to look to the future with faith and confidence and with increasing efforts in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity so that their beloved Oman could achieve its progress and advancement.

Finally, his majesty prayed to God to guide Oman to further progress and advancement.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Ministry Reports Iraqi Defections

LD1811215690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Nov [dateline as received]—Responding to questions by world media about reports of Iraqi military defections to the Saudi Armed Forces, a responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation has stated the following to SPA [SAUDI PRESS AGENCY]:

Ever since the Iraqi Forces' invasion of the fraternal State of Kuwait, a number of Iraqi officers, noncommissioned officers, and men, including military doctors, began to defect to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom with their weapons, and to surrender themselves to the Saudi Armed Forces.

The source said that "the number of Iraqi military who defected to the Kingdom reached over 300, ranging from officers, noncommissioned officers, men and doctors, by 12 November." The Saudi Armed Forces have welcomed them and provided with all care and attention.

USSR's Belonogov Delivers Message to Fahd

LD1711183690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1725 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Jeddah, 17 Nov (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, may God preserve him, has received a message from His Excellency the Soviet president, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The message was delivered to King Fahd by Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov, who was received by the custodian of the two holy mosques at Al-Salam Palace today.

The audience was attended by the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Foreign Ministry Undersecretary for Political Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri.

Prince Sa'ud met with Belonogov earlier today. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry undersecretary for political affairs and the head of the Western desk at the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Nizar Madani.

The Soviet official arrived in Jeddah last night and was welcomed at the airport by the Foreign Ministry's undersecretary for political affairs and a number of officials.

United Arab Emirates

President Urges Nation To Pray for Rain

NC1811134590 Paris AFP in English 1046 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 18 (AFP)—United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan has urged the nation to pray for rain on Thursday, the official WAM news agency reported Sunday.

Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan said special Muslim "rain prayers" should be held nationwide and urged the UAE's 1.6 million population to take part.

Rain prayers are annually held in the UAE which depends on winter rains to boost underground water resources of the desert country.

The UAE gets an average of about 59 millimetres of rain per year but it can fall to less than 5 mm in dry years.

Paper Criticizes Nonaligned Role in Gulf Crisis

JN1711175290 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Manama, Nov 17 (GNA)—A United Arab Emirates English language daily today criticised the Non-Aligned Movement over its failure to play an active role in finding a settlement of the Gulf crisis.

The Dubayy-based 'KHALEEJ TIMES' said in part: The occupation of Kuwait by a big and a powerful country, which has sought to wipe a sovereign neighbour out of existence through a blatant use of force, is a grave threat to all small and peaceful states of the world. It is especially so, for those countries which have adopted non-alignment as their creed in international relations and depend heavily on outside help for economic development.

But the contribution of the Non-Aligned nations to tackle the crisis has been rather little compared to the Movement's vast membership and considerable influence on world scale.

There was a time when the Non-Aligned Movement used to be a strong voice on the global scene on all matters concerning the political and economic well-being of the Third World.

This is not in the spirit [of] peace and justice which the Movement is supposed to uphold and resolutely enforce. As President Shaykh Zayid stressed at the weekend, the Non-Aligned Movement should live up to it's name without betraying any bias. He told a visiting Yugoslav official, whose country is the current head of NAM, [Non-Aligned Movement] that states which abet injustice, tyranny and aggression are not worthy of becoming its members. NAM states must act effectively and positively within the framework of international legitimacy with regard to the Gulf crisis, Shaykh Zayid was quoted as saying.

It is a valid point, and NAM members ought to consider it seriously to protect their own prestige and serve themselves in the long run. Neutrality does not oblige one to condone aggression. Violation of international law has to be condemned unequivocally. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Ministry Spokesman Says Foreign Workers To Stay

NC1611174090 Paris AFP in English 1538 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Sanaa, Nov 16 (AFP)—Yemen has no intention to replace about 100,000 foreign workers with Yemenis, a spokesman for the Ministry of Labor said Friday [16 November].

Quoted by the official SABA [YEMENI NEWS AGENCY] news agency, the spokesman denied that the Yemeni government had decided to repatriate foreign workers, the bulk of whom are Asian.

On Monday, an official at the ministry said Yemen would replace some 100,000 foreign workers with Yemeni nationals before the end of the year amid rising unemployment linked to the Gulf crisis.

The official said jobs had to be found for thousands of Yemenis who were expelled from Saudi Arabia after Yemen backed the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

According to government figures, more than 700,000 Yemenis have come home since Saudi Arabia decided on September 19 to cancel special privileges to some two million Yemeni nationals who lived in the kingdom.

In another development, Yemen's President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on Friday received a message from his Iraqi counterpart Saddam Husayn on efforts to settle the Gulf crisis peacefully, an official source said.

The message was delivered by Iraq's Deputy Premier Sa'dun Hammadi, who paid a lightning visit to Sanaa Friday afternoon, before returning to Baghdad.

Mr. Salih reiterated his country's "support for all efforts undertaken to avoid war in the region," the official source said.

Yemen is closely allied to Iraq and its foreign minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani said Thursday [15 November] his country would not participate in any conflict that erupts in the Gulf.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Hammadi Visits

Meets Salih; Conveys Message

JN1611173490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Sanaa, 16 Nov (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen, received here today Sa'dun Hammadi, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, member of the Revolution Command Council, and deputy prime minister.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy conveyed a message from his excellency to his brother Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, on the current developments in the region and relations between the two sisterly countries.

Salih affirmed, during the meeting, his country's principled and firm stance on the Gulf crisis and the need to resolve it through peaceful dialogue. He expressed Yemen's support for all efforts to save the region from the pains of war and to achieve peace in the region.

Hammadi left Sanaa today.

Comments on Meeting, Departs

JN1611173590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and Iraqi deputy prime minister, left Sanaa this afternoon.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY - SABA', brother Hammadi said he explained to the chairman of the Presidential Council a number of issues dealing with the Gulf crisis and the presence of American and foreign troops in the region. He also informed him of the results of his visit to a number of Arab countries and Iraq's viewpoint regarding the proposed Arab summit to discuss how to end the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework. He pointed out that during his meeting with the brother chairman of the Presidential Council they exchanged views on the international situation and various issues of interest to the Arab League and the Arab world in general.

To see him off were brother Dr. Hasan Makki, first deputy prime minister; a representative from the Presidential Protocol; brother 'Abd Husayn Ibrahim al-Rifa'i, Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Saddam Husayn Calls Up 250,000 More Troops

JN1911160090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1505 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Staff Field Marshal Leader President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. The meeting was attended by a number of Armed Forces specialists. Defensive arrangements in southern Iraq facing the expected aggression in the Governorates of Kuwait and al-Basrah were discussed during the meeting. The leader president was briefed on part of the strategic reserve's counter-offensive plan. The men of our valiant Armed Forces have stressed the high level of preparedness of the men of the people and nation in the operations' sectors, the Air Force, the Navy, and in the Army helicopter gunship Corps.

The Armed Forces commanders have demonstrated the high level of morale that the fighters have armed themselves with to face the enemy in defense of the homeland and nation and the future and sanctities of the Muslims.

The attendees analyzed the motives and reasons behind the U.S. Administration's announcement to dispatch additional ground troops. The attendees were convinced that the statement about the dispatch of additional force reveals that it has been understood that theoretical and propagandist calculations are one thing, and realities in the battlefield are quite another. Therefore, the latest calculations are an acknowledgement of the importance of artillery and infantry if Iraq's force is to be challenged. If things are considered in those practical terms, Iraq's superiority will continue to exist at a level that will show those who are making wrong calculations their complete impotence in the face of Iraq's superiority. This is because Iraq is able immediately to reinforce its troops in the south with additional troops.

It has been decided at the Armed Forces General Command meeting to mobilize immediately seven additional divisions and call up more than 150,000 fighters from the reservists and draftees. Thus, more than a quarter million fighters will be added to our massed troops. The superiority will thus remain at its required standard, which the others cannot match.

It is worth mentioning that according to military considerations, the percentage of attacking force to defending force is three to one. The Armed Forces General Command has noted that the other side of the U.S. calculations is the Americans' understanding that their hopes to mobilize a multinational force and use it in their aggressive actions have completely failed. This is because even those who sent their forces have either sent token forces or reversed their mistaken stand, to which they had been pushed by miscalculations or the hastiness dictated by the U.S. Administration.

In all cases, and on the basis of the necessary ratio of the attacker to the defender—even without considering the state of morale, the difference in supply sources, and other considerations, which are all in Iraq's favor—if the battle starts, the wicked U.S. Administration would need a ratio of three to one to become technically able to launch an attack against the valiant and faithful God's forces on Iraq's territory. This means that the United States will need to mobilize a three million-strong force with similar equipment and armament to our forces, and the number may need to be increased in light of any additional power to our valiant force. From this, the weakness and risk appear, which cannot but meet with a solid failure if things are pushed toward war, and the villains will face an abject defeat.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal and Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization.

'Guests' Allowed To Leave Beginning 25 Dec

JN1811193790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1903 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn this morning chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council. It was attended by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim. At the end of the meeting, the following statement was issued:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The moment the prophets and messengers were entrusted by Almighty God has always been a special opportunity for all humanity to recall the factors of human trends and moments of contemplation in everything that is spiritual and good. And thus are the occasions of their birth. In view of the special status the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, peace be upon him, has among all people, particularly Christians, throughout the world; in order to remove anything that may disturb celebrations by the families of those prevented from traveling on the occasion of Chistmas and the new year; in response to the appeals of all good people in the world; as our contribution to further constructive measures in the service of the path of peace and dialogue; and in order to topple and weaken all the elements of evil, which are being fed by the wicked ones who are pushing toward what is evil and harmful to mankind; it has been decided to allow the foreign guests to travel in batches as of 25 December over a period of three months. The last group will leave Iraq on 25 March 1991, unless something happens to disturb the atmosphere of peace.

Foreign Nationals Leave Country 18 Nov

JN1811205190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Nov (INA)—In an implementation of President Saddam Husayn's order to allow the guests of the Iraqi people to either travel to their countries or

stay in Iraq, as they wish, a group of foreign women, children, and elderly persons of various nationalities left Baghdad this evening.

In statements to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], the departing Iraqi guests expressed their appreciation for the generous hospitality and complete care they received from the Iraqi Government and people during their stay.

Lin Wibsil [name as received], an engineer from New Zealand, described President Saddam Husayn's initiative to allow them to either leave or stay in Iraq as a message of peace to the world, that reflected his excellency's humanitarian nature and his love for peace.

He also stated that he supports direct dialogue in solving the region's problems and that he rejects interference and military threats, which will only increase tension in the region.

Mrs. Julie, a British woman, highly valued the generous care she received from the Iraqi Government and people throughout her stay. She also expressed hope that peace would prevail in the region as soon as possible and said she does not support war.

Minister on Reaction to Release of Foreigners

JN1911120490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1116 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has vehemently criticized the statements made by U.S. and British officials on Iraq's decision to start allowing the travel of the foreign nationals who are banned from traveling as of Christmas and over a period of three months.

The culture and information minister told INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] that the U.S. and British officials seek through their hostile statements to deceive the Western public opinion and maintain it in a state of tension by depriving it of the basic facts. This is a game they have been carrying out since the beginning to justify their schemes of aggression and their colonialist objectives in the region.

The culture and information minister added: With this decision, Iraq reaffirms its sincere desire for a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace for which it has been calling and which was expressed in a comprehensive manner in President Sadam Husayn's 12 August 1990 initiative. The minister said that the U.S. and British rulers do not want peace for the region, and they do not want to settle its problems on a comprehensive basis because comprehensive and lasting peace will deprive them of attaining their objectives of controlling the oil sources in the region, and consequently controlling the fate of the world. That's why they oppose any step in this direction in a nervous and aggressive manner and overreact toward any positive sign.

The culture and information minsiter said that the countries which have been swept in one way or the other by the U.S.-British scheme must make the correct deductions from the arrogant course of aggression the United States and the United Kingdom have been following since the beginning of the incidents. These countries must also carefully study the real objectives of the U.S. and British policies, policies which are colonialist and aggressive and which not only endanger the countries in the region but threaten world peace and the legitimate interests of the peoples of the world.

INA Reports Saddam Interview With ABC

JN1711194190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Nov (INA)—Last Thursday, 15 November, President Saddam Husayn received an American ABC television team led by Mr. Peter Jennings.

The team interviewed President Saddam Husayn on the most prominent developments in the region, prospects for the future, and Iraqi-U.S. relations. The meeting was attended by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

The following is the text of the interview:

[Jennings] Mr. President, only a few months ago you and the United States were friendly. You sold oil to the United States. The United States helped Iraq with its development. You were not allies but you were quite friendly. Now, U.S. and Iraqi forces are facing each other and may embark on a war. What do you think about what has happened so far?

[Saddam] In fact, this question should be addressed to the U.S. Administration because the one who came here with an army threatening the security of the region is the U.S. Administration. Nevertheless, we continue to say that we are friends, as we see it, of the American people. We are still ready, on the basis of equitability and justice, to establish relations with the United States as we would with others. However, to claim that the United States has contributed toward Iraq's development is inaccurate.

During the short period after diplomatic relations were restored between us and the United States, our purchases were restricted in general to consumption goods such as grain. However, grain exports to Iraq were halted as a result of a congressional decision in March of this year; that is, five months before the events of 2 August.

[Jennings] One of your friends in the region told us a day or so ago that a month ago he felt the chances for war in the region were 75 percent against it. Now he thinks it is 60 percent for peace and 40 percent for war. What do you think, Mr. President?

[Saddam] We are not inside the mind of the U.S. Administration for us to be able to set arithmetic percentages. The decision to go to war is not our decision; it could come from the U.S. Administration and those pushing in this direction. Therefore, we cannot allocate any specific percentages to war or peace.

[Jennings] Who is pushing the Administration?

[Saddam] We believe that the U.S. Administration has made an error of judgment and rushed into things. Now, this has developed into a big burden on the United States and on mankind at large. Those who pushed in this direction are Thatcher, Israel, Husni Mubarak, and the Saudi ambassador in the United States. This is how we see it. However, we can clearly say that as far as we are concerned, we want peace. We want stability for this region, just as we wish to see peace prevail all over the world.

[Jennings] Can we talk about peace then or the peaceful solution to the crisis, Your Excellency the President? You said in the past that you are prepared to make sacrifices in war. However, you told the PRC foreign minister recently that you are prepared to make sacrifices to achieve peace. Is it possible to be precise about this? What do you mean by it?

[Saddam] When the decision of war and peace is in your hands, and then you come to sit with me to talk about what steps should be taken for peace, you will know confidently what steps constitute sacrifice on the part of Iraq for the sake of peace.

However, we can say today that we—as a people and a nation—are ready to make sacrifices for peace; we, at the same time, are ready to make sacrifices in war if others impose it. It is natural for us to imagine that peace is a great achievement. Because it is a great achievement, because it will prevail in the entire region, and because the whole world will benefit from it, it is natural for the parties interested in creating a state of peace to make sacrifices for peace. Then we will see that Iraq is among those who should make sacrifices for the sake of peace.

You both are sitting on the right, so you are both rightists.

[Interpreter] This rightism is imposed, Sir; it is not optional.

[Jennings] I believe, Your Excellency, that you agree with me that as long as we are sitting in front of each other, we should be direct with each other.

[Saddam] That is perfectly correct.

[Jennings] Your Excellency, is it possible to give us some information and ideas on how to achieve peace? And how you, and the alliance opposing you will move toward the path of peace, the path of dialogue?

[Saddam] To begin with, any path to peace has its requirements. At the top of these requirements is holding a serious and comprehensive dialogue among the concerned parties. All concerned parties should be psychologically and practically ready to push matters toward peace. And all should be psychologically and practically ready to offer the sacrifices that are appropriate to their position and role for the sake of peace.

Let us give you an example to form an idea: If Syria were to be asked now to deal with flexibility on its position on Lebanon, you would find that it was difficult for it to behave with this flexibility unless it had a clear gain to make in choosing the path of peace. And the flexibility it shows with regard to the occupation of Lebanon, for example, should be coupled with a gain for itself.

We, as Arabs, regard the liberation of the Palestinian territory, including holy Jerusalem, as a gain for all.

[Jennings] But I want an example regarding Iraq, not Syria, if possible.

[Saddam] Please, let me complete my example. When Syria obtains the liberation of the Golan, and when it, as an Arab and Islamic nation, succeeds in getting Jerusalem and the land of Palestine liberated and regains the full, comprehensive peace of which it has been deprived since Israel occupied the land of the Arabs and of Palestine, then the flexibility shown by Syria in its position on Lebanon would not be considered a defeat, but flexibility dictated by the circumstances of a comprehensive settlement.

With regard to Iraq, Iraq is also an Islamic and an Arab country. When Lebanon regains its health and stability, and once Palestine and the Golan have been liberated—all these are considered gains. In addition to these gains, Iraq will enjoy peace, which, because it did not exist before, plots were practiced against it and matters were pushed to the events of 2 August.

Therefore, these examples will help you form an idea.

[Jennings] Your Excellency, there is a conviction in the United States that we are between war and peace on the Kuwait issue. Is it possible to give us an idea about your belief in this matter—whether we are moving toward war or peace?

[Saddam] We hope we are moving toward peace, not toward war. And the party that can help in moving toward peace is the U.S. Administration.

Such a decision needs thorough consideration. It must also make a peron not find it easy to think about using force. For example, we believe that the recent U.S. Administration's decision to bring in 100,000 additional troops to the region will make it easier for the U.S. Administration to push things toward war, not peace. But, when the forces are sufficient only to defend Saudi Arabia—the original intention behind President Bush's decision—and if there is to be thought of resolving the Gulf crisis, then the situation may be closer to the possibilities of peace than to the possibilities of war.

[Jennings] I did not understand this, Mr. President.

[Saddam] I want to say, briefly, that when the decisionmaker feels that the force at his disposal can harm the other party and make the path of peace dispensable in achieving his objectives, such a thing would push toward war. So, the prolonged presence of U.S. troops in the land of Arab and Muslim sanctities, and augmenting the number of these troops from time to time will burden the center of U.S. decisionmaking. Then they may find

themselves closer to resorting to war rather that opting for the path of peace. [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1700 GMT carries the ABC interview with Saddam, here inserting the following question by Jennings: "Mr. President, are you saying that you think President Bush has changed the rules of the game and is giving his troops greater offensive capability to stage war, not achieve peace?"]

President Bush has changed his objective many times since 2 August. At the beginning, he gave preference—he said that the main task of his troops was to defend Saudi Arabia. A few days later, he began to introduce new objectives. When he was criticized for standing by the former ruling family in Kuwait, he began to talk about oil. When he was criticized, when he was told that oil would be sold to the United States anyway, so why send our sons to die for oil, which is available to us anyway, he began to give preference to so-called international laws. When he was faced with other situations, toward which he did not act in the way he acted toward this one issue, the administration began to talk about the danger of Iraq possessing a large percentage of the world's oil reserves. Here, American officials began to raise this percentage. At the beginning they said it was 20 percent, but they now talk about 40 percent. Now, just before I came to see you, I heard on the Voice of America that President Bush said he would go to Saudi Arabia and meet with the U.S. troops to thank them because they were there to defend peace.

[Jennings] There is a powerful coalition facing you in Saudi Arabia. What do you think that coalition wants from you? Does it want you out of Kuwait? Does it want to weaken Iraq? Or, does it want to remove you, as an individual, from power? What is your assessment, Mr. President?

[Saddam] We firmly believe that this coalition was formed, in part, on the basis of some unified objectives. In part, some members of this coalition may not be in agreement over all the objectives. The main thing is to weaken Iraq and to achieve any of the objectives that you have mentioned with the aim of weakening Iraq. For example, after the Soviet Union withdrew from the arena, the United States found itself driven by a mistaken factor—the desire to control the entire world. The most important of those it wants to control are Europe and Japan. It thinks that this control cannot be achieved without controlling, in real terms, the oil region.

[Jennings] You are saying that the United States wants to dominate Europe and Japan, and toward that end it must control the oil in the Gulf and the oilfields?

[Saddam] Yes, I have said that. I have waited for you to listen to the translation. Take Israel, for instance. It wants to keep the occupied Arab territory, and works to expand. It, therefore, does not want any Arab or Muslim to tell it to refrain from aggression. In this respect, it converges with the aims of the U.S. Administration and Husni, who is carrying his bag around the Gulf states to collect money. Add to that his personal complex of which we, at any rate, had not been aware, and his doing the bidding of the U.S. Administration and Bush. All these factors combined with others to form the foundation of this alliance

[Jennings] Mr. President, what is your idea of how the United States and its other allies and Iraq can resolve the crisis of Kuwait?

[Saddam] This problem will be resolved when we have the firm conviction that dialogue is the high road to understanding. When the Gulf crisis is defined as a result rather than a cause, and when things are approached from the perspective of an all-inclusive solution, all issues will be worked out.

[Jennings] Where does this dialogue begin?

[Saddam] Between those targeted for attack and those preparing for it, with the participation of international and Arab parties interested in global and regional peace and security. But first, President Bush must become convinced the path of war is fruitless, and that the option of peace is the right course to follow both in the interest of the American people and the world.

[Jennings] You raised two points: First you said that Mr. Bush needs to be convinced that the road to war is not the way, and you also said that he must seek dialogue. Does this mean that President Husayn and President Bush must talk? Or does it mean that Iraq and Saudi Arabia must talk? Are there people that you trust as intermediaries for President Bush?

[Saddam] Principle is of the essence. Iraq, for its part, sees dialogue as the way to peace and that peace must be comprehensive, complete, and final. Specifically, if an Arab-based solution is to be preferred, the right climate must be created. Then the two parties that most need to talk directly are Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

[Jennings] Have you talked about it?

[Saddam] No, we have not.

[Jennings] Will you begin such talks?

[Saddam] For our part, we are always available for a dialogue with the parties concerned.

[Jennings] Mr. President, you say that if there is going to be an Arab solution, the important parties in this solution are Iraq and Saudi Arabia. But there is an international coalition in Saudi Arabia. Which other sides could take part in this dialogue in search of a peaceful solution?

[Saddam] Bilaterally, we believe that the two most important parties that should hold a thorough and comprehensive dialogue on all issues with the objective of finding a comprehensive peace in the region if the solution is to be an international one are Iraq and the United States. It is natural that this dialogue would develop into final resolutions under the auspices of the Security Council with the five permanent members, in addition to Germany and Japan, as we see it.

[Jennings] Is there a dialogue between you and the United States at this moment?

[Saddam] During the last meeting between our ambassador to the United States and a senior State Department official, our ambassador was informed that the State Department believes that dialogue should be conducted through the Iraqi ambassador in the United States and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad. However, it is clear that dialogue seen from this perspective is nothing more than informing each other of views without any real give and take.

[Jennings] Would you want to have a dialogue with President Bush? How important is it to you? How would you hold this dialogue?

[Saddam] We have always stressed that it is in humanity's general interest that dialogue not be halted among people in the settling of their problems. It is only natural that a problem of this kind, a complex problem—and most of the problems in the region are very complex—would require patience, endurance, and dialogue. Once Mr. Bush is ready to hold such a dialogue, it would not be difficult afterward to organize how the dialogue should take place.

[Jennings] But President Bush has often said that he is ready to talk to you when you withdraw from Kuwait unilaterally.

[Saddam] This is not a dialogue. These are conditions for submission. What will he talk to us about after that? Will he talk to us about whether he will continue to occupy the Prophet's tomb and the Ka'bah? Will he keep the siege imposed on us? This is not dialogue. These are conditions for submission. We reject such conditions of submission.

[Jennings] How can you overcome that?

[Saddam] Through dialogue. A balanced solution to any problem based on respect for the humanity, positions, and views of the concerned parties should be through dialogue and by refraining from rattling sabers and making threats with them.

[Jennings] Mr. President, when you say that you are ready for dialogue as you said earlier, do you really want dialogue and does this mean that Kuwait is negotiable?

[Saddam] When I say something, I mean it. I mean every word I say. I said that dialogue must include all the issues in the region based on unified humane, political, and legal standards.

When it is said, for example, that Iraq must implement the UN Security Council resolutions as they are—resolutions the UN Security Council adopted without a dialogue with Iraq—we say that these resolutions are not the only resolutions issued by the Security Council with regard to the region's issues.

[Jennings] These are the UN resolutions asking you to withdraw from Kuwait. I am only making a clarification, Mr. President.

[Saddam] These are the resolutions of the United States. If they were indeed UN resolutions as you say, then the U.S. President and his secretary of state would not have had to wave the thick stick and economic threats in the face of a number of European states and Japan to fulfill their obligations toward the troops sent to Saudi Arabia. So, these are the resolutions with which the United States has departed from the realm of international balance. Before that, resolutions were taken when the United States was part of a general process of balance, and these were issued by the Security Council and were fairer than those resolutions. So, why are those resolutions not implemented, if a comprehensive and full peace is really desired for the region? Would the United States, for example, agree to consider all Security Council resolutions pertaining to the region's issues and adopt the same sanctions taken against Iraq against the other parties when they refuse to implement these resolutions? This is one of the most important questions, which would give the answer to this question: Do we want to implement international law and international ethics, or select things to cause embarrassment and then implement the hostile scheme?

[Jennings] Can you put this answer in a simpler way? I am not sure if I understood you correctly, Mr. President. Are you saying that you will be ready to negotiate about the withdrawal from Kuwait if the United States is prepared to deal decisively with Israel over the occupation of the occupied Arab territories?

[Saddam] Yes, in the same spirit, we are ready to discuss and implement a comprehensive and full peace for the region as a whole, provided each issue is discussed in accordance with its own background and by the same standards. You may have seen the statements made by former British Prime Minister Mr. Heath about Kuwait. He is not an Iraqi. But, he said why do you not hold a dialogue with Baghdad? Do you want Baghdad to withdraw to the borders I drew—Heath, that is—or, do you want Baghdad to withdraw to the so-called borders, those that the amirs of Kuwait expanded to after that? Some people may go further and say that Kuwait was encircled by a wall, so do you want Iraq to withdraw to outside the wall, or to a place further than that wall, or what? All this shows clearly that talking from above is unacceptable, but people must be modest to sit at the [negotiations] table on an equal footing with others to hold dialogue and reach a comprehensive solution to the issues of the region and restore rights to their rightful owners.

[Jennings] Mr. President, no one has more power than you to discuss the future of Kuwait. So, can you tell us what are the bases according to which the issue of Kuwait can be discussed? What do you think about the borders with Kuwait and how these can be settled?

[Saddam] The borders were marked. This means that Iraq was not present, but the British told us these were the borders. He [Heath] said that the former amirs even went beyond those borders that were marked by Mr. Heath or the British Foreign Office. However, recent history tells us that Kuwait existed within a wall called the wall of Kuwait.

I am not here discussing where the borders should be. For when I talk to you on the basics of our position on Kuwaiti, the Palestine question, or Lebanon, what is going to be left for negotiations? Moreover, I would like to ask the U.S. Administration: Why are they insisting on a return to the pre-August 2 status? Does the U.S. Administration plan to marry off 20 more American girls so that Jabir can add them to his 70 wives? Or is he meant to prolong his rule so that he can add $60 billion to the wealth that he has collected from the people's and nation's resources? Is this the model that Bush is defending? Is not this a scandal tarnishing American principles?

[Jennings] Let us change the subject. Mr. President: Another question on your ability or lack of ability to talk or deal with the United States. Do you feel that there is a need for a U.S. envoy to talk to?

[Saddam] If the path of dialogue were to be used to achieve peace, the parties concerned would be supposed to feel a deep need for an exchange of views. Hence, if there is a desire for dialogue to achieve peace, we always welcome dialogue. However, you know that we are a people with dignity, just as the American people have their own dignity. Therefore, we do not beg for dialogue, even if the man we are talking about is the head of state of the biggest world power. I previously proposed a television debate between me and him so that the American people might learn the facts and so public opinion in general might learn the facts for themselves. The response, however, was haughty, arrogant, uncouth, and hasty: We neither hold dialogue nor debate.

[Jennings] Your Excellency the President: My question is not on the general discussion of this issue, but whether you feel that your opinions are being clearly relayed to President Bush or whether you feel that these opinions are not being clearly communicated to President Bush. Hence, do you think it would be preferrable for an envoy from President Bush to talk to you about this issue?

[Saddam] We believe that President Bush has made hasty decisions. One of the reasons for this haste must be the ambiguity shrouding some historical or realistic aspects. Therefore, we are fully confident that if the U.S. Administration were to show a desire for dialogue, it would discover new realities that are impossible to see with an angry eye or a furious mind.

[Jennings] Mr. President: One of the things that infuriates millions of Americans concerns the hostages in Iraq. Mr. President, why do you believe that this contributes to a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Gulf?

[Saddam] The Americans are not the only people who are infuriated about this. I am myself infuriated by this situation, because it is a difficult situation to keep a person, that is, to prevent a person from traveling against his will. This applies to a number of Americans and a number of Europeans.

This is the only decision that annoys us, not out of fear of anybody, but out of respect for the dignity of mankind. Our only excuse is that they are not allowed to travel so as to constitute a factor that will make whoever wants to push matters toward war hesitate a little before embarking on such a decision when he remembers the human tragedy of such an act. He might not be concerned about 18 million Iraqis when he attacks them. However, he might remember this small number of Americans and British. He might remember his human duty. Thus, he will be given a chance to think twice, and then he might follow the path of peace instead of the path of war. The hesitation will give whoever makes the wrong decision an opportunity that might benefit peace.

[Jennings] Your Excellency: I do not want to speak about the Americans, but it would be useful to say that when the Americans hear you saying that the presence of such hostages here harms you, this will hurt the Americans more than anything else. Those hostages are held here in Iraq and the Americans will listen to nothing other than whatever indicates the possibility of releasing those hostages from Iraq. Do you not think that giving those hostages an opportunity to travel is a contribution to peace?

[Saddam] Yes, after a while, and God willing, this time will not be long. If we see that the war is not imminent and that U.S. officials are now beginning to think about alternatives, then all will be allowed to enjoy their full freedom. But, in this case, we hope that while the Americans are concerned about the small number of Americans who are present in Iraq, they will also remember that the U.S. Administrations has prevented 18 million Iraqis from traveling, imprisoned them, and deprived them of food and medicine, not tens as is the case with the Americans.

[Jennings] Are you speaking about the economic sanctions against Iraq?

[Saddam] Yes, the economic sanctions are unjust and illegal. It has never happened before in the history of mankind that a people were deprived of medicine; even a prisoner of war should not be deprived of food and medicine.

[Jennings] You know, Your Excellency, that the United Nations did not prevent the arrival of medicine and food in accordance with the sanctions.

[Saddam] But, in practice, they are prevented. Here is an example: On one of the oil tankers that was searched by force in the Gulf, in the territorial waters of the State of Oman, the crew's food was seized by U.S. and British soldiers; it was taken away. You can verify this by speaking to the crew.

Now, a person who is suffering from a heart disease and does not find medicine in a pharmacy will die. Tens of cases like this have happened in Iraq. People with cancer now go to pharmacies, but they do not find the medicine they need. Children with certain diseases, whose medicine is not manufactured in our factories are dying because Iraq is deprived of medicine.

These are the facts that the American people should know so they can realize the magnitude of the insult directed at their principles and the principles of freedom and humanity they have been talking about since the American revolution. These are facts, not propaganda. You can mingle with Iraqis and ask them. You çan mingle with doctors and ask them.

[Jennings] Mr. President, I would like to have an explanation about the American and other hostages in Iraq. You said: If the war does not loom on the horizon. Can you define that? You also said the hostages will not stay very long in Iraq and that they might be released if it becomes certain that war will not break out.

[Saddam] If President Bush had human concern for those who are prevented from leaving, he would have said that he would not use armed force against Iraq. Such an open pledge would be enough for us to allow all foreigners to leave Iraq.

[Jennings] Is it a pledge not to attack Iraq as a country or attack the Iraqi forces in Kuwait?

[Saddam] The whole situation is interrelated; it is one and the same. Will we not call it aggression if we say that we will attack America but not California, for instance? Therefore, aggression is aggression, be it against the al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate or Kuwait Governorate.

[Jennings] If war breaks out between the anti-Iraq alliance and Iraq, who do you think will triumph?

[Saddam] To begin with, I hope it will not break out. War is a terrible thing. America and the allied parties do not have to wade in blood. What will the Frenchman, the Englishman, or the American lose in terms of his dignity, sovereignty, or security if war does not break out? If there is the idea that Iraq would be defeated by war, this is an oversimplification. This is because I have never heard that any people, in conditions similar to those of Iraq, were defeated simply because others had an overwhelming desire to defeat them. The American will fight if his sovereignty, security, or dignity is threatened. Because it is not threatened, we do not believe that, if a war continued for a time, the American citizen would continue to take the position that the administration wanted him to take.

[Jennings] We have talked about the hostages, which is an issue of concern to Americans. Another issue is your alleged connection with Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] and Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. Can you explain this connection to us?

[Saddam] What do you mean by connection?

[Jennings] It is widely believed in the West that Abu-al-'Abbas and Abu-Nidal can operate freely in Iraq.

[Saddam] No one can work from Iraq except in accordance with universally respected or, let us say, recognized principles. As for Abu-Nidal and Abu-al-'Abbas, they are two Arab citizens of whom we have an opinion different from that held by Americans. They are strugglers for the liberation of Palestine. Anyone can make mistakes, and they may have made mistakes. However, and in any case, we view the mistakes of those whose land is occupied and whose people are expelled from their homes with eyes different from the way we look at someone who makes the same mistake when his country and people are not subjected to the same humiliation. For instance, you say that these two men are carrying out fedayeen operations.

[Jennings] Two terrorists.

[Saddam] The assessment is different. We do not attach epithets to a person, but rather to the act. They are two strugglers and not highwaymen. For instance, if President Bush were to start a war against Iraq, would he not kill children, women, the elderly, civilians, and military personnel?

From our point of view, we view such an act as terrorist. Indeed, the threat to use force is a kind of international terrorism. However, President Bush does not view the threat to use force as a terrorist act. At any rate, we advise Palestinian strugglers to refrain from making mistakes that might tarnish their image.

[Jennings] Mr. President: Do you believe that Abu-al-'Abbas' commandeering of the Achille Lauro in the Mediterranean was a mistake and Abu-Nidal's attack on Rome airport was also a mistake?

[Saddam] I do not indulge in details. I said that mistakes are blamed on those who make them. You know the Iraqi policy.

[Jennings] Your Excellency the President: You have spoken a lot today about Iraq's leading role in the Arab world, about its moral leadership of the Arab world.

[Saddam] I have not uttered a single word about leading the Arab world. I have spoken about Iraq as part of the Arab and Islamic nation.

[Jennings] You also said, Your Excellency the President, that if President Bush attacks Iraq it will be considered a terrorist act. If war were to break out between Iraq and the U.S.-allied forces stationed in Saudi Arabia, would you then attack Israel with chemical and biological weapons even if it did not deal a blow to you? And, will you use chemical and biological weapons against any of the forces deployed against you?

[Saddam] We will attack whoever attacks us. As regards the weapons that we will use, we hope and pray that arms will not be used in the first place. However, if war were to erupt, not all wishes come true all the time. That is

because when wars break out—and considering your description of an eventuality—it is not the choice of minds, but the choice of the devil. We do not know how the devil will act in the minds of American or Israeli decisionmakers. However, we know for sure that we will not bow to anyone other than the Almighty God.

[Jennings] Why do you feel it necessary to acquire chemical and biological weapons? And why do you feel it is necessary to acquire chemical weapons?

[Saddam] Because Israel is in possession of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. And Israel is upholding the slogan of expansionism at the expense of the Arabs. Israel is occupying Arab lands. It has rejected all the UN Security Council resolutions urging it to withdraw from the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

As we see it, peace requires some kind of balance. This is despite the fact that we are not, as it has been rumored, in possession of nuclear weapons. It seems to be a new goal added by the U.S. Administration and the British Government in the past few weeks to a series of changing objectives to justify their acts of aggression against Iraq. Consider the lack of justice. U.S. newspapers, media, and politicians in power are talking about Iraqi chemical weapons, but fail to discuss the chemical, bacteriological, and nuclear weapons in Israel's possession. Consider the disdain in which Arabs and Muslims are held by certain Western politicians who regard them as inferiors, but look upon others differently. If the United States and Israel answer your question by saying they will not resort to the use of nuclear weapons, Iraq will give a clear answer to your question.

[Jennings] Concerning talk about the need for a regional security arrangement, do you think there is a way in which weapons of mass destruction can be brought under control?

[Saddam] Yes, the only way is for peace to prevail, and for a peace agreement to stipulate that all weapons of these types be brought under control as part of comprehensive, full peace. Iraq is ready for that.

[Jennings] Would Iraq be prepared to live in peace with Israel as part of this arrangement?

[Saddam] We are talking about total, comprehensive peace. When we talk about a comprehensive, full peace, we are not leaving out any party.

[Jennings] It is an interesting question, Mr. President. But have you thought of calling President Bush on the phone?

[Saddam] If President Bush should call me, I would take the call.

[Jennings] Mr. President: I would like to ask about your own personal assessment of peace prospects. Is the region headed toward peace or war?—and this is a pragmatic question, not about mere wishes.

[Saddam] We pray to God to bless the efforts of those who are working for peace, and to disappoint those who are working for war. But a string of statements by American and British officials are predominantly threatening, rather than a conciliatory dialogue. But we see that well-intentioned people and politicians who are not in power, both in the United States and Britain—and beyond—are growing in number.

[Jennings] You have given me the impression that the American people have no wish to enter into a long drawn-out war in the Gulf. Is that what you believe?

[Saddam] I assume—from a humanitarian point of view, and from a practical and realistic point of view—that it is not in the interest of the American people to enter into a war with Iraq, and, consequently, with the Arab nation and all Muslims. Therefore, I assume that if, God forbid, war erupts, even those American people who support war now will discover in time that they have been misled by those who have made the decision of war. Then, their sorrow will destroy those who made the decision.

[Jennings] Mr. President, the U.S. secretary of state will begin a tour to a number of states to obtain support for a decision from the Security Council to use force against Iraq if it does not withdraw from Kuwait. This will certainly increase the pressure on Iraq.

[Saddam] Certainly. But, notice who is moving against whom. You have said that the resolutions are Security Council resolutions, and I have told you that these resolutions are U.S. resolutions and that Thatcher is pushing in this direction. The proof of what I say is that the initiative for all those resolutions came from the United States and Thatcher's government; that is, from the Bush and Thatcher administrations. Whenever a resolution is to be taken, the one who moves is the U.S. secretary of state and the one who gets on the phone with the concerned parties is Bush—not the other way around.

[Jennings] But, Mr. President, those resolutions were taken unanimously.

[Saddam] True, they were taken unanimously. But a unanimity during a meeting in which not all the parties were equal in representing their will. What can the small countries do in the Security Council in the presence of the United States? If it threatens to stop them from getting cereals, it is enough for some of them to surrender, especially those who cannot buy cereals from somewhere else. Also, there are certain issues over which certain major countries may agree with the United States on legal grounds. But, if they were left free of U.S. pressure, they would think of means to prevent the United States from falling into a disaster, or help the United States to stop it from falling into the disaster of war. But the United States was in a rush to take those successive resolutions. This hastiness will push it toward disaster.

[Jennings] I was serious about my question about the possibility of a telephone conversation between you and President Bush. Are you serious about the possibility of

a telephone conversation with President Bush? What issues can you resolve through such a conversation?

[Saddam] Real dialogue is a direct, human encounter. Neither messages nor telephone conversations can be as effective as the eyes when they meet and when the meeting takes place in a human atmosphere, in which, it should be assumed, there is a genuine desire not to feel superior or use unfair methods. This is what is required. However, if this is difficult to achieve, then messages and telephone conversations are important. They are still better than a total lack of communication. The lack of communication among the concerned parties always gives rise to shadows that do not serve the cause of peace.

[Jennings] Mr. President, all these discussions about the possibility of war and so forth, can I deduce that you have said there can be negotiations about everything regarding this crisis?

[Saddam] We will not exclude anything from the dialogue and will find acceptable solutions for the parties concerned. We said that we must hold a dialogue on all outstanding issues and implement the resolutions. We will not exclude anything.

I am pleased with this thorough talk and I hope you will convey our good wishes to the American people on Thanksgiving Day, which falls on the 22d of this month.

[Jennings] I must tell you that on Thanksgiving Day, the American people will be deeply hopeful that all the hostages may return.

[Saddam] If we feel a reassurance that women and children in Iraq will not be killed as a result of the wolf that resides in the minds of those who make war decisions, we will be happy as the American people will be when the Americans and all foreigners enjoy the freedom of leaving Iraq or staying, as it is within their human rights. The American people should expect from us everything that is humane.

[Jennings] Thank you, Mr. President.

[Saddam] Thank you very much.

Defense Minister Reacts to Cheney Remarks

JN1911123390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1109 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Iraqi Defense Minister Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal has described the statements made by U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney as "ones which arouse sorrow and entail grave dangers."

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] reacting to Cheney's statement in which he said that the "forces in the Arabian Peninsula under the U.S. Administration are capable of defeating the Iraqi forces if they want to do so," Gen. Shanshal said the U.S. defense secretary will discover, but only when it is too late, that his incorrect calculations, unstudied statements, and his attempt at bluffing have placed him in an inextricable impasse. He explained that this impasse will make him an easy target for rotten eggs and whatever is available in the hands of the American citizens, before others, that will be thrown at his head and face when they discover the heavy sacrifices they will have to make as a result of the folly of Cheney and the agents inside and outside the Arabian Peninsula who push him into this course of action.

Addressing Cheney, Gen. Shanshal said: Virtue, Mr. Cheney, is not to talk arrogantly, but to come closer to God through good deeds and words that satisfy God. Your insistence on your aggressive, evil objectives against our people, nation, and homeland is compatible with your recklessness and departure from God Almighty. God is with us and we will triumph, God willing.

The defense minister added in his statement: We did not wish to comment earlier on the many unbalanced statements made by U.S. officials after the great day of al-Nida' on the second of last August because any media man or politician can make statements in which they quickly forget certain factors or even do not take them into consideration, for bragging or psychological warfare purposes. Nevertheless, they will never be able to shake the Iraqis and their Armed Forces.

He adds: If someone among the ranks of the media men or low ranking military men falls into the trap of miscalculation, this does not result in grave dangers. But that the U.S. secretary of defense miscalculates—this United States which describes itself, and many describe it with the well-known characteristics—then this is a regrettable state of affairs.

Article Criticizes Thatcher 'Obsession'

JN1711155790 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Nov 90 p 2

['Abd-al-Muttalib Mahmud article: "When Politicians Lack Morals"]

[Text] Every day, the foolish old woman of Britain, Thatcher, proves that she has no morals.

This old woman, who can no longer find anything to distract her attention from playing the real role of a woman, is going too far in her attempts to gratify her political vanity. Not only is she instigating Bush, her "true friend" as she likes to call him, to initiate military aggression against Iraq, Thatcher never stops making her rabid statements, which are full of lies, prevarications, fabrications, and cheep insinuations.

For Thatcher, Iraq is more than an enemy, it is the greatest of her many obsessions because it freed itself from the noose that the British Empire clamped around its neck at the beginning of this century. So this old hag can no longer express pride in the service and colonialist heritage it has bequeathed to various U.S. administrations, especially the administration of her intimate friend, George Bush.

Thus, the old woman is more heart-stricken than Bush himself or his Washington clique. She feels the more humiliated and bitter because she thinks that Iraq has stepped on her long dress, revealing what should not be revealed.

When history writes further about Britain, the Thatcher era will occupy the darkest pages, because she did not let Britain be a sovereign state with an independent position, but insisted on making it a U.S. lackey and obedient servant of America for no reason other than personal objectives of Thatcher herself.

Furthermore, who is this Thatcher, compared with Iraq, which is rising in strength, determination, and resourcefulness—something that even enemies, such as Thatcher herself, acknowledge, as well as friends?

She is nothing, no more than a woman stricken with senility and whose nerves are wrecked by internal crises that Thatcher is trying to export from the British Isles in order to demonstrate that Britain is still capable of influencing international politics, even though under the Bush administration's umbrella.

If this rabid, beleaguered old woman wants to indulge her recklessness and try with her intimate friend, George Bush, to mount aggression against Iraq, let her try, because she will then be throwing Britain's future into hell.

Editorial Says State Ready for Peace, War

JN1811151290 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Peace Is Our Trait, Crushing Agression Is Our Character"]

[Text] In the United States and the West there is now a wave fighting another wave: the wave of peace and the wave of war.

We describe peace and war advocates as "waves" because each has become clear and of substantial size. Thus, distinguishing and pinpointing these waves has become an easy matter which requires no great effort.

It is sufficient to note that Voice of America recently admitted that the American people were unhappy about their administration's involvement in the Gulf, that President Bush was facing a constitutional crisis, and that he had to explain to the U.S. Congress the truth about the policy he is pursuing to deal with the so-called "Gulf crisis."

As for the old woman Thatcher, today she too is surrounded by her internal crisis and her personal ambitions and aspirations to exploit the "Gulf crisis" to cover up that of the British Government, which she heads, or to carry out her other personal ambitions.

Meanwhile, the stance of the nations of the world is distinguished because it stresses a wish for peace and stability and the increasing voices calling for a resolution of regional issues and consequently current world issues by peaceful means away from the beating of the drums of war and bloodshed.

With regard to these two waves, Iraq was certain and sure that these two waves would inevitably emerge; namely, a wave for world peace and a wave for war which ebbs and flows until only a small number of its advocates remain who will then represent an out of the normal situation.

This is because peace is the only correct way of life, the natural law; because it represents the peoples' will.

This is what Iraq believes in, has declared, and worked for under all conditions and circumstances.

The great truth that has become clear is that Iraq believes in peace and has an open heart and mind for dialogue to tackle the entangled regional issues and reach a comprehensive and just peaceful solution. Meanwhile, Iraq is at the peak of its readiness to combat agression. Those who get involved in an agression on Iraq should expect something that has not been calculated, photographed by satellites, reported by the media, or collected by U.S., Zionist, and British intelligence services.

Iraq says this clearly and openly not to threaten anyone but rather to stress the facts and to caution against any misunderstanding.

Indeed, Iraq's combat ability is high and at the same level of its readiness for dialogue, because we believe as leader President Saddam Husayn said in the past recent days "agressive action is not one of our traits, but replying to it is part of our character." Therefore, we are ready and fully prepared to confront those who defile Arab and Muslim sanctities and plunder their wealth. Those who think of agression on Iraq will be unfortunate.

France's Le Pen Arrives in Baghdad 19 Nov

JN1911112290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1056 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Nov (INA)—Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the National Front in France and member of the European Parliament, arrived in Baghdad today heading a parliamentarian delegation on a visit to Iraq lasting several days.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Mr. Le Pen expressed his happiness and that of the delegation with him on their visit to Iraq as peace messengers.

He said that during his visit he will meet with Iraqi officials to discuss developments in the Arabian Gulf situation.

He called for the departure of all U.S. and Western troops from Arab lands and asked the concerned parties to resort to dialogue and negotiations to solve all problems in the region to avert the dangers and woes of a destructive war.

Receiving the delegation at the airport were Mr. Ghanim 'Aziz, deputy speaker of the National Assembly, and a number of Assembly members.

Palestinian public is called upon to defend the sites holy to Islam and to Christianity."

The report goes on to say that "the leaflet explains that the Gulf crisis must be turned into a total Middle East war that will lead to the liberation of Palestine."

14 November

TA1511103290

[Editorial report] Matthew Seriphs, reporting in the 15 November issue of Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on page 10, says that in areas in the Gaza Strip where curfews were not reported on 14 November, celebrations marking the second anniversary of Yasir 'Arafat's declaration of Palestinian independence "continued with schoolchildren staging demonstrations and clashing with the army, local sources said. They added that pupils, absent from school after the Civil Administration cancelled classes, carried Palestinian flags and pictures of Yasir 'Arafat. They also chanted, 'Launch your chemical weapons, Saddam!' the sources said.

"Soldiers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the demonstrators, wounding six persons from the Daraj, Tuffah, and al-Shaja'iyah neighborhoods of Gaza, Palestinians said, adding that celebrations continued until evening with tire-burning and the beating of drums to nationalist songs. After the imposition of the curfew at 8 p.m., people set off fireworks from the roofs of their houses, one source said.

"The army said that Gaza military court judge Lt. Col. Eli Zicherman sentenced Hamis al-Far, a resident of Gaza, to three life sentences for two murders and an attempted murder in 1989. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said al-Far carried out the acts with a number of fellow members of a Fatah strike committee which had accused the three of working with the authorities."

Seriphs also adds that "the security forces arrested the 14-year-old son of former Gaza Bar chairman Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, one of the most prominent figures in the Strip, after they found him masked and writing slogans on a wall in Gaza with three other youths."

In another report on the same page of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, Jon Immanuel adds that "the body of a man kidnapped from his village by masked men Tuesday [13 November] was found yesterday near Janin, after his car was torched.

"Husayn Mahamid, 38, was apparently killed by his kidnappers, who then set his car on fire. Neighbors in the village of al-Tayyibah, north of Janin, said he was suspected of cooperating with the authorities, but no Palestinian group made an announcement concerning the murder.

"The West Bank was relatively quiet yesterday as the IDF imposed curfews across the territory." The curfews included "Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and surrounding refugee camps. Ramallah, Hebron and Qalqilyah were declared closed military areas." Additionally, "all schools in the West Bank were closed following stone-throwing incidents at several schools.

"In Ramallah Military Court, Sami Abu-Qassus, a Jordanian, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for infiltrating from Jordan with an M-16 submachine gun in April, intending to attack Israelis."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 15 November, in a report on page 5 by Shmu'el Tal, adds that "Arabs from the territories have recently adopted the habit of driving at night with the lights on their license plates off. Soldiers who have noticed the phenomenon believe that the intention is to make it clearer for stone throwers that these are not Israeli cars." The soldiers also reported that the stone throwers pass on word of approaching Israeli vehicles.

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 15 November, in a report by Hayim Broida on page 7, says that "the security forces yesterday arrested journalist Fayiq Kan'an, age 30, from 'Anabta on suspicion of offenses against state security. This was reported yesterday by Arab sources in Tulkarm. Kan'an owns a press office in Tulkarm, is on the AL-FAJR editorial staff, and has already served two administrative sentences before. He was also arrested for security violations."

15 Nov 'Independence' Day

TA1611093190

[Editorial report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 16 November, in a report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs on page 18, says that "soldiers shot down Palestinian celebrations of 'independence' in Nabulus yesterday by taking aim at airborne balloons with Palestinian flags attached to them.

"A curfew across most of the West Bank kept people at home, but in urban neighborhoods balloons and flags festooned balconies to commemorate the second anniversary of the Palestinian state declared by the Palestinian National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, two years ago in Algiers.

"In the Gaza Strip, almost 95 percent of the population celebrated in the privacy of their own homes, after the army sought to snuff out all signs of protest by clamping curfews on wide-spread areas."

"The army destroyed three houses in al-Burayj refugee camp in the center of the Gaza Strip yesterday, after persons living in them were accused of involvement in the stoning and killing of Israeli soldier Amnon Pomerantz, Palestinian sources said. They said the houses were initially sealed soon after the incident and destroyed Wednesday [14 November] night by bulldozers."

Faysal al-Husayni "told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday that he did not consider the declaration of the state two years ago to have been an empty gesture which has foundered on hard reality. He said it had focused

Palestinian energies on the ultimate goal, a state coexisting with Israel. 'It may not be strong. It still has to be fed, to build muscles, but eventually it will stand on its own feet,' he said."

Ron Kampeas, reporting on the same page of the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST, adds that "riots, arrests and injuries together with a festive atmosphere in and around East Jerusalem marked 'Palestine Day' yesterday, the second anniversary of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's declaration of an 'independent state of Palestine.'"

He adds that "rubber bullets and tear gas were used to break up riots in Silwan, al-Sawwanah, 'Isawiyah, al-Tur, Abu-Tor, and Bayt Hanina. Eight Palestinians were arrested during the day, and 24 were treated for light rubber-bullet injuries and tear-gas inhalation. One policeman was lightly injured."

"Three Palestinians were arrested outside the Old City's Damascus Gate in the evening after Border Police were pelted with stones and bottles. In Abu-Tor during the afternoon, Border Police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse 400 residents, one of whom, carrying a loudspeaker, was arrested for incitement.

"Two Palestinian youths carrying loudspeakers were arrested for incitement near Southern District Command headquarters on the Mount of Olives. A border policeman was lightly injured in the leg during a stone-throwing attack near the main mosque in Silwan. The stone throwers were dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets. The policeman was treated at a nearby clinic.

"Police used rubber bullets and tear gas to break up rioters near Bayt Hanina after arresting a 13-year-old stone thrower. In Shu'fat refugee camp, Border Police were kept busy removing flags and balloons commemorating 'Palestine Day.' Sporadic rioting was reported from the camp throughout the day.

"A Gaza resident was arrested during a routine check at the al-Za'im junction north of the city when parts of an army uniform, including sergeant's stripes, were found in his possession.

"A spokesman for al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem said that 23 of the 24 Palestinians admitted for tear gas inhalation and rubber-bullet injuries sustained during yesterday's riots were treated and released. One, who underwent surgery for rubber bullet wounds in the head, was in the recovery ward 'in good condition'."

A front-page report by Jon Immanuel in the same issue of THE JERUSALEM POST adds that "a four-year-old Arab boy—a passenger in a car with yellow [Israeli] license plates—died on the West Bank last night when a stone smashed the windshield and struck him on the head, military sources said.

"The car was passing the village of 'Ayn Bidan [placename as published], about 4 km. northeast of Nabulus, when it was hit by a shower of stones. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] immediately imposed a curfew on the village and searched for the attackers."

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 16 November, in a front-page report by military correspondent On Levi, says that "permanent roadblocks with steel gates, similar to the Erez checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, will be erected along various axes in Samaria where incoming and outgoing traffic is inspected. Work on this project will begin within the next few days.

"The order came from Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Central Command, as a measure to enforce the defense establishment's decision to prevent the ineligible from going to work in Israel. This effort will be on a trial basis and will be extended to additional roads if it succeeds." Levi reports that the decision encountered "criticism by the defense establishment" for being "ineffective," as not all the roads leading into and from Israel can be surveyed.

16-18 November

TA1811111390

[Editorial report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 18 November reports that "all curfews in the Gaza Strip were lifted this morning."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 18 November in a page 8 report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs reports that two West Bank residents were wounded during clashes yesterday after troops dispersed a pro-Fatah march of several hundred in the Nabulus casbah to mark Palestinian "Independence Day," local sources said.

"The marchers carried flags and signs saying, 'The Palestinian people are part of the international family.' Murad Darwish, 22, was struck in the face by a tear-gas cannister and 'Ayyad Hijazi, 18, was struck in the left leg by a rubber bullet. Military sources could not confirm any injuries."

The report quoted Palestinians as saying that "residents of Zaytun attended prayers at the Salah-al-Din Mosque Friday despite a curfew. Demonstrations took place after prayers, they said, in which four people were slightly injured by rubber bullets and one 22-year old was seriously injured by live ammunition. He was receiving treatment at al-Shifa' Hospital in Gaza, they said. The army had no reports of injured, but said a firebomb was thrown at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in Rafah."

U.S. Embassy Border Surveillance Criticized

JN1711085090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Nov 90 p 28

[By Caroline Faraj]

[Text] The precondition set by the Western countries, especially the United States, for international assistance to compensate Jordan for its losses as a result of the Gulf crisis is Jordan's observance of Security Council Resolution 661. It would seem that the diplomatic missions in Jordan have ascertained that we are actually respecting the international resolutions.

It is noted, however, that the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Amman is still not convinced that Jordan is respecting the UN resolutions, although the U.S. officials themselves have announced that Jordan is implementing the resolutions, that it is one of the countries most severely hit by the embargo and sanctions against Iraq, and that it must receive international aid as soon as possible.

It is strange that the diplomatic missions in Jordan are doing their best to send reports and information to their countries on Jordan's current position, but within the framework of diplomatic traditions and protocol. In other words, when an embassy wishes to meet someone or to visit any place, it writes officially to the Foreign Ministry in Amman to make the necessary arrangements.

So what is the diplomatic explanation for the presence of representatives for some Western diplomatic missions in various places and their holding of economic and political meetings without prior contacts with the concerned body, the Foreign Ministry?

It is known that Jordan is a sovereign state, and all those who set foot on Jordanian territory must respect and abide by the country's laws.

Since the Arabian Gulf crisis erupted, it has been noted that members of the U.S. Embassy in Amman are engaged in strange activities, as though they were taking the law in their own hands and using it as they please, which is at odds with the sovereignty of the state!

It was noted that the U.S. Embassy maintained a presence in the al-Ruwayshid area on the Iraqi-Jordanian border approximately between 10 August and 20 October 1990. In the beginning, five diplomatic cars were to be seen in the area; later, the number of vehicles was reduced to two. This continued until 20 August 1990. After 30 August, however, the cars were replaced by an air- conditioned bus equipped with communications equipment, modern cameras, and beds so that the occupants could continue to perform the tasks set by their government day and night. They were assigned to take pictures of vehicles, especially covered trucks moving toward the Iraqi border. It is funny that some of the pictures taken showed cars belonging to Bedouin families residing in the desert areas along the border.

Several U.S. journalists who always use embassy cars are also present in the area. Some of them live in one of the hotels and others in the houses of some residents. And they claim they are there on journalistic missions on the border.

While U.S. Embassy employees were present at the al-Ruwayshid border, a U.S. diplomat said they were not there to watch transport movement across the border but rather to assist U.S. nationals expected to arrive from Iraq!! During the same period, the U.S. ambassador visited and met with those employees, and even reached the evacuees' camp area without prior contact with the Jordanian Foreign or Interior Ministries to obtain permission in accordance with diplomatic norms!!

A few days ago, the U.S. ambassador visited the industrial city of Sahab and asked to meet with a number of factory owners. Since the visit was not organized through diplomatic channels, the meeting was held at one of the factories and not at the official city building. During the meeting between the ambassador and four other figures, a prolonged discussion of the U.S. view of the Gulf crisis and the reasons behind intercepting ships and fighting Jordanian products was held. In addition, Jordanian exporters were blamed for depending too heavily on Iraq in political and economic matters. In conclusion, the two sides disagreed in their opinions!

The question posed now is: Does the U.S. Embassy have the right to watch the Jordanian border and make sure that Jordan is adhering to the economic embargo resolutions or not?

Mrs. Marjatta Rasi, head of the committee in charge of following up the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 661, had earlier said that search operations at the Jordanian-Iraqi border will focus in particular on watching trucks, and that UN employees residing in Amman will assume this task.

Dr. 'Ali 'Atiqah, local representative of the UN Development Program, was assigned the task of consulting with the Jordanian Government to discuss the best means of monitoring Jordan's adherence to the sanctions at the request of Jordan itself, and forming a watch committee.

Responding to a question on whether anyone has been assigned to watch the Jordanian border, Dr. 'Ali 'Atiqah told AL-RA'Y that there is now no one. He added: I am assigned to the task of holding consultations and conveying the viewpoints between Jordan and the United Nations only.

For its part, the Jordanian Foreign Ministry stressed to AL-RA'Y that no organization or group up until now has been assigned the task of watching Jordan's adherence to the embargo resolutions on Iraq.

The driver of a refrigerated truck who had earlier participated in transporting milk donated from the children of Jordan to Iraq as part of the charity convoys has said:

We transported cargo in front of the U.S. Embassy cars with no fear, because our government was aware of the issue. However, since the government stopped us from going pending the UN opinion, we stopped—because we abide by the Jordanian Government's orders, and not those of the U.S. Embassy.

King Receives Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega

JN1811214090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1653 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 18 Nov (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. His majesty reviewed the roots and developments in the Gulf crisis, as well as Jordan's position, which calls for a political settlement of the crisis starting from within the Arab family.

Mr. Ortega praised His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to achieve this kind of settlement and Jordan's interest in handling all Arab issues within their Arab framework. He stressed that it was necessary to resolve all crises in the region on the bases of right and justice.

The meeting was attended by former Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto; President Ortega's personal representative, George Hallaq; and his majesty's political adviser.

Says Husayn, Bush To Meet

JN1911105790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn plans to visit Paris for talks with U.S. President George Bush on the Gulf crisis, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said Sunday.

Ortega said the King had told him in a meeting Sunday that he was going to Paris for talks with Bush, "on a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis."

Bush is currently attending a European summit in the French capital.

Palace officials will neither confirm nor deny whether the King was going to Paris. The president will be in the French capital until Tuesday when he will leave for the Middle East for visits to the multinational force in the Gulf and then to Egypt.

King Meets Iraqi Official With Saddam Note

JN1811171590 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1655 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 18 Nov (PETRA)—At the Royal Hashemite Court this evening, His Majesty King Husayn received Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi, member of Iraq's Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, who conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the king's political adviser, and the Iraqi ambassador to Amman.

Hammadi Comments on Meeting

JN1811185490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1803 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Interview with Sa'dun Hammadi, member of Iraq's Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister, by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab following Hammadi's meeting with King Husayn in Amman on 18 November—recorded]

[Text] [Hammadi] It is known that contacts and messages between the president and his majesty are continuous, all dealing with views, information, and analysis of what is now called the Gulf crisis. I carried a written message from the president to his majesty within this framework. It is part of the series of constant contacts and consultations between the two countries. This is something agreed upon by his majesty and the president.

[Dhiyab] What about the proposed Arab summit and your visits to a number of Arab countries?

[Hammadi] I explained to the Arab countries I visited our view of the call for an Arab summit. I made it clear that Iraq wants the problem to be left for the Arab countries to deal with. However, the method used must suit the complexity of the issue. We, therefore, must use an appropriate and useful method that yields results and that cannot be used as political cover for the United States and other countries to launch an act of aggression. I explained Iraq's position, which was included in the statement issued on the day the call for the summit was made. I think that the view that exists is very close to ours. I explained Iraq's position on this issue, and I think that everyone's views pointed in the same direction.

[Dhiyab] Let us ask in general about the efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully.

[Hammadi] I do not know, I cannot say anything about the efforts. There are voices and efforts throughout the world resisting the trend toward war, and we in Iraq are also calling for a peaceful solution to the issue because war will have a negative impact and will not lead to a solution to the problem. At any rate, any effort for the sake of peace is one in the right direction.

[Dhiyab] Thank you, sir.

[Hammadi] Thank you.

King Husayn, Swiss Official Discuss Gulf

JN1811182990 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1650 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 18 Nov (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Klaus Jakubi, Swiss minister of state for foreign affairs [name and title as received] at the

Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon. His majesty reviewed developments in the Gulf crisis and Jordan's efforts to achieve a political solution to this crisis.

The Swiss minister praised these efforts and stressed that his country appreciated his majesty's endeavor through his Arab and international contacts.

Mr. Jakubi also paid tribute to the resumption of democratic life in Jordan, pointing out the importance and distinctive nature of this democracy at this stage in the history of the region and the world. The Swiss minister also stressed his country's appreciation for the help and assistance Jordan has provided to hundreds of thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait. He said Switzerland is eager to support Jordan and compensate it for the huge loss it incurred as a result of the Gulf crisis and of Jordan's observance of the Security Council resolutions.

The meeting was attended by the Swiss ambassador in Amman.

King Husayn Addresses Parliament Opening

JN1711125990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1014 GMT 17 Nov 90

["Speech from the throne" by King Husayn on the opening of the second ordinary session of the 11th parliament in Amman—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: In the name of God, and with His blessing, I hereby declare open the second ordinary session of the 11th parliament.

I salute all of you and commend the tireless and selfless efforts you have made during the first year of this assembly toward the success of your democratic process, which has become a source of strength and might for this homeland and a source of unity for its people. Your democratic process has also set a respectable, good example through its earnest steps on the path of progress and awareness of historic responsibility.

The constructive interaction we have witnessed between the objectives and needs of the homeland and also between the causes and aspirations of the nation, as well as the positive cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities, have been a source of pride for us all. I am deeply confident that this interaction will be entrenched and this cooperation consolidated in a manner that will enable us to overcome crises and build a model Jordan on the basis of freedom, democracy, and security—a country guided by the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, faithful to its Islamic faith and spiritual values, committed to its mission, loyal to its nation, and ready to make sacrifices for the sake of higher Arab objectives and future generations.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: My government has upheld the Constitution in letter and spirit, and has promoted free dialogue in an atmosphere of openness and tolerance. Thus, we—officials and citizens—have made a splendid and distinct accomplishment which has given the process of democracy and consultation [shura] a push forward. Through wisdom and awareness, we have succeeded in tackling the difficult circumstances facing us.

To protect the democratic process and arrive at a general formula stemming from the provisions of our Constitution and the basic principles upheld by the Kingdom, and to entrench the national and the pan-Arab concepts guiding this country and the activities of its political and professional organizations, we formed the Royal Commission for Drafting the National Charter. We hope that this commission will be able to submit the findings of its deliberations and research before the end of this year. In light of these findings, legislation will be promulgated on political parties, publications, and professional and youth associations.

In the context of our commitment to consolidate the democratic process, my government has strengthened unity among the sons of our one people on the basis of assuming responsibility, showing concern for security and stability, and emphasizing the individual's role in protecting the domestic front. My government has also honored its commitment toward upholding the judiciary, maintaining its independence, and freezing martial law. This law will be canceled once the original reason for its enforcement is removed.

The government has submitted to this esteemed assembly a draft law on defense to replace the existing one. It has also freed political detainees and reinstated most of those who were dismissed from their jobs for political reasons. The process of reinstating others is continuing. The government has also safeguarded the freedoms of work, movement, and travel. Media credibility has been strengthened, and the press has assumed its responsibility in an atmosphere of freedom and commitment.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives,

The Palestine question is our central preoccupation, and our commitment to it is genuine and need not be reemphasized. We will remain faithful to our common destiny with the struggling Palestinian people. We will continue to support their valiant national intifadah, strengthen their steadfastness on their territory with all that we possess and to the best of our ability, and work with the PLO in all possible ways so that their free state can be established on their blessed, chaste land.

This year has been characterized by increasing dangers that we have to confront in light of the mounting extremism of the Zionist enemy and its exploitation of international circumstances and changes for its declared aim of establishing Greater Israel. More than 125,000 immigrants have flooded into the land of Palestine this year. Initial estimates indicate that the number of immigrants expected to arrive soon will exceed one million. This influx has coincided with the rise to power of the

Israeli right wing and the enemy's rejection of any political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of international legitimacy and a full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace.

With the help of your esteemed assembly and the effective popular forces, my government has worked to draw the attention of the Arab nation and the international community to the dangers posed by Jewish immigration to the Palestinian people's right to their homeland, to our national security in this country, and to the entire Arab existence.

Against the background of these unfolding events, the Baghdad summit was held late May 1990. Pan-Arab security was its central topic. During this summit, it was evident that there was a comprehensive awareness of the gravity of the situation and of the extreme importance of supporting our steadfastness in Jordan and that of our people in Palestine. Since Jordanians and Palestinians are in the first line of defense that is capable of repulsing the designs of the enemy, the summit realized the necessity of enabling us in this country to confront the challenges effectively and competently and of helping the Palestinian Arab people to continue their valiant intifadah until their noble national objectives of establishing their independent state on their national soil under the PLO are realized.

During the summit, signs of an explosive disagreement between Iraq and Kuwait became evident. Together with some of our brothers, we sought to contain the disagreement and to defuse it to avert its destructive implications for Arab solidarity at this delicate stage in our nation's history, when it is trying to cope with the far-reaching changes in international relations. Our view was that any failure to find an Arab solution to this disagreement would undermine the region's security and place it on the verge of an inevitable catastrophe that would destroy our existence and place our future in the hands of others.

The Gulf crisis then erupted, and its ensuing developments have put us all at a grave crossroads in the march of our Arab homeland and nation. Had our efforts to settle differences between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti brothers succeeded, such developments would not have taken place. However, those efforts were frustrated by the adamant positions and the large foreign military buildup we are facing now on Arab territory, which represents an explicit and persistent threat to the Arab nation's hopes and aspirations for a unified and mighty Arab homeland.

In spite of what has happened, our efforts, which began before 2 August, have not ceased. We strove within the Arab League Council and the emergency Cairo summit and through our contacts with the brothers to contain the Iraqi-Kuwaiti differences within our one Arab family, considering them differences between two Arab League member states. The internationalization of the crisis has not stopped us from continuing to seek a political settlement that would bring the crisis back to its Arab context and resolve it through inter-Arab efforts in a manner that will preserve for the two sisterly Arab countries their interests and rights. The Jordanian position was met with increasing understanding and response as the crisis grew more acute, and Jordan became the capital of international political activity as a result of this rational, consistent, and realistic position, in spite of all the negative repercussions it caused, which have affected and continue to directly and seriously affect our economic situation.

I must indicate here that the divergent positions among Arab states on the Gulf crisis is not an acceptable reason for estrangement or enmity toward any of our brothers with whom we differ in outlook and approach, or with whom we do not agree on the causes of the crisis and the ways of handling it. We harbor only love and good will for our brothers. Ties of Arab brotherhood have linked us in the past, and continue to do so. We are confident that what has happened so far will not make us forget our responsibility, or make them forget their responsibility toward us and toward our kinfolk in occupied Palestine. We are the steadfast gate in defense of the nation and we are the firm, patient, and steadfast ones in the face of the expansionist schemes directed against us as well as them, which are lying in wait for them as well as us. [applause]

What causes sorrow and anger is that a horrible massacre was committed in the land of al-Isra' wa al-Mi'raj [Prophet Muhammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven] and in the courtyards of the blessed al-Aqsa mosque against our Palestinian people, who are defending our holy places against those who want to demolish them to erect the temple. Scores of righteous martyrs fell dead and hundreds of honorable people were wounded. It is a daily, systematic massacre taking place in all of Palestine. The forces standing behind military escalation, tightening of positions, and the economic blockade in the Gulf region are issuing only a timid rebuke to both the victim and killer. The same forces stand helpless before Israeli intransigence, which rejects the UN Security Council resolutions. Those demanding international legitimacy and protection of human rights do not bat an eyelid, which confirms that these positions go beyond that claim to domination of Arab destiny and control of the nation's wealth. This requires us to persistently insist that the international community provide protection and security to these people against the Zionist occupation authorities and their continuous violation of human rights.

International legitimacy's double-standard policy in dealing with the Palestine question and the Gulf crisis prompts us and all peace- and justice-loving nations to bitterly question it. With regard to the Gulf, resolutions on embargo, force, and blockade are being adopted and their implementation followed up, while with regard to the Palestine question, resolutions are being adopted without any followup or care for implementing them. Thus, we wonder: Why is there a continued refusal to link the two issues although all resolutions on them were issued by the United Nations and in accordance with its charter?

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: My government assumed its responsibility when we resumed our democratic march and at a time when the homeland was facing a financial crisis and an economic deterioration. The government worked to implement the economic reform program and to regularly evaluate and develop it with the aim of resuming intrinsic growth, achieving economic balance, and strengthening the Kingdom's supply of foreign currency. It also worked to create the needed atmosphere to activate the role of the private sector and increase opportunity for investment and national exports.

According to the preliminary indicators during the first half of this year and to the recognition of the competent international organizations, the Jordanian economy registered a satisfactory growth involving all sectors, and the growth in real terms in industrial production exceeded an average of 5 percent. Moreover, the agriculture and construction sectors managed to achieve satisfactory growth, despite having declined last year.

During the first half of this year, national exports rose to about 3.2 percent, while imports decreased by 3 percent in U.S. dollars. Remittances from Jordanian expatriates began to increase after two consecutive years of decline. The country's foreign currency reserves rose from $465 million by the end of last year to $646 million. Confidence in the Jordanian dinar was consolidated, its exchange rate stabilized, inflation trends were limited, and the cost of living index remained stable as of April.

My government also organized and restructured the banking institutions. It also provided more liquidity to the institutions that faced some crises. The government has just finalized a new draft resolution to organize the activity of moneychangers and amending the banking and currency control laws.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: My government has succeeded in reducing the budget deficit by about 15 percent of the gross domestic product at the end of the first half of 1990. It did so by reconsidering the tax system structure, making it more equitable, and improving the revenues of the treasury in addition to improving the means of collecting these revenues, which increased during the first half of this year by about 63 percent compared to the same period last year.

My government also called for controlling and rationalizing government expenditure while maintaining a good level of services and continuing to provide support for those who need it. It is expected that current expenditures this year will not exceed the projected budget, except for subsidies of food products—which might exceed the projected figure as a result of the worldwide increase in prices and the rise in consumption—and will continue to ensure essential commodities at subsidized prices.

My government paid special attention to administering the public debt by adhering to a defined ceiling for domestic borrowing, controlling commercial borrowing, and limiting foreign borrowing to loans for development programs under easy terms to support the balance of payments.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: My government has paid attention to social security in its broadest sense to include tackling the problem of unemployment. Thus, it improved the data base on Jordanian and foreign manpower. It also took measures to regulate and activate the labor market and expanded vocational training to cover all parts of the Kingdom to provide training for more than 10,000 trainees this year and 14,000 trainees in the next year. It also introduced new professions required by the Jordanian economy. The Development and Employment Fund has also begun its work by promoting enterprise and job opportunities, combating pockets of poverty, and backing rural development.

Since achievement of food security is essential for guaranteeing social security, my government has worked to ensure the availability of essential foodstuffs on a regular basis, while maintaining stable prices and ensuring a strategic reserve of these foodstuffs. To ensure a subsidy for those who deserve it and to rationalize consumption, the ration card system was introduced at the beginning of last September. The government also encouraged local livestock farming by subsidizing cattle feed.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: At the time when the economic readjustment program began to achieve tangible results, the Gulf crisis erupted and threw additional heavy burdens on the national economy. The process of economic readjustment was disrupted after it had come close to restoring the momentum of developments to the desired level. One after another, sectors of the economy, especially transport, tourism, industry, and agriculture, began to suffer from the negative effects of the crisis.

A more difficult and cruel problem, perhaps, is the one faced by Jordanian expatriates. Their savings—which they accumulated from years of arduous labor—have eroded. Some lost their livelihood. Tens of thousands of them returned to Jordan, which added to the burdens on the services sector and made unemployment more acute.

To face this crisis, and despite the difficulty of identifying its dimensions due to the numerous unpredictable variables involved, the government adopted a scientific program to contain as many of its negative effects as possible and at the same time to try to rectify the process of economic recovery in response to the new conditions. Thus, it implemented strict programs to rationalize and limit consumption, which included adjusting custom tariffs and the cost of water and electricity for the higher consumption brackets. In this respect also, the government concentrated on rationalizing government expenditures by reducing current expenses that are not of the highest priority and revising capital expenditures by giving priority to labor-intensive projects and the use of local raw materials. The government also continued expansion in basic services such as education and health

services, which are essential to cope with the needs of returning citizens. It is comforting and gratifying that the success of these efforts was largely due to the people's awareness of the requirements of the present phase, and their willingness to make sacrifices and cooperate with government measures.

My government has reviewed the agricultural policy with a view to exploiting all arable lands, leasing state-owned land at nominal rates, and diversifying production to meet the needs of food security. In industry, my government has sought new markets for Jordanian commodities and to direct the industrial sector to increase its reserves of primary industrial materials.

After all these developments, it was natural that the government should reconsider the economic reform program. Therefore, it began to prepare a new comprehensive framework for the Jordanian economy for the years 1991-95. My government also began to draft a preliminary outline of the strategy, policies, and measures that should be adopted to deal with new challenges and facts. My government also contacted the United Nations to explain the volume of losses that have hit the Jordanian economy as a result of the Gulf crisis and its commitment to the implementation of the related UN Security Council resolutions, demanding the necessary financial compensation to enable Jordan to contain the effect of the crisis on its economy. That was followed by intensive contacts with international agencies, European Community, Japan, and all friendly countries. It is hoped that these efforts will generate adequate support for Jordan to compensate for its losses that resulted from the crisis.

At this point I should commend the great efforts exerted by my government and its various agencies to receive a million evacuees since the beginning of the crisis and to provide them with care and transportation in fulfillment of Jordan's honorable humanitarian role, which it has never shirked regardless of circumstances and difficulties.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives,

My government has paid special attention to education, culture, and youth. It has continued to implement the educational development plan, increased higher education opportunities, paid special attention to youth care on the basis of our tolerant religion, our nation's values, and our national experience. It also upheld the freedom of creativity and the spread of culture, established the National Library, enacted a law to protect copyright, and encouraged democratic dialogue.

My government expanded medical and social services, particularly to the underprivileged. The road network has been expanded, particularly in rural areas. Housing projects for low-income people and electricity networks have been expanded. More efforts were made in the search for deep subterranean water reservoirs, building dams, and care for the environment.

In the field of prospecting for oil and its derivatives, new oil wells have been dug based on a national effort in the al-Rishah area, which confirmed the existence of additional reserves of gas. Two gas-generated power plants are being established to fulfill 25 percent of the Kingdom's needs.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives,

In Islamic affairs, the government has established the Propagation and Principles of Jurisprudence College, a new shari'ah [Islamic law] college, four Islamic schools, supported the preaching and guidance establishment, continued to support Islamic awqaf in the West Bank, particularly the holy al-Aqsa Mosque, and continued to pay monthly salaries to members of the intifadah families.

In public administration, my government has begun to implement a national plan for administrative development. It has embarked on organizing ministries and government institutions with a view to restructuring them. It has formulated a draft law on administrative control and central inspection. Moreover, it has drawn up strict rules for the selection of employees that ensure fair employment opportunities and guarantee that the necessary qualified personnel for administration are made available. In addition, it has provided aid to local councils.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: As for our Armed Forces, the pupil of the eye, the shield of the nation, and the guardians of the borders, who do not sleep, but defend honor and lands and who are constantly vigilant, they are protecting the longest confrontation line to defend the nation against the vicious Zionist onslaught. Despite all difficulties and constraints, my government will continue to develop the Armed Forces in size, equipment, training, and efficiency. My government will also care for the security personnel, the homeland's vigilant eye, who are protecting the domestic front and providing peace and security in an atmosphere of freedom and tolerance, and showing eagerness to safeguard our unity. As for our unified Jordanian people, they will, with the help of their cohesion and national unity, be an army supporting the regular army, ready to build Jordan on empty stomachs and to protect the nation's sanctities regardless of the hardships they are facing, displaying a readiness to join the Popular Army. My government sought to expand the Popular Army and provide it with adequate weapons for popular resistance within the means of the Treasury and under the direction and supervision of the Armed Forces with the aim of safeguarding the homeland's security, protecting the pillars of its impregnability, and rallying all well-intentioned and sincere forces in the lands of steadfastness and preparedness so that we can be worthy of the hopes of our nation.

Honorable senators, honorable representatives: This homeland is the heartland of the Great Arab Revolt [applause], and the sanctuary of all free Arabs. It rejects division and subordination [applause]. Its structure is built on a foundation of staunch national unity that is too firm to be penetrated or broken. Jordan's aspirations for Arab unity are reflected by our steadfastness and also by making persistent efforts to bring the Arabs together

in the face of nefarious and aggressive designs. Our eyes will always be focused on Jerusalem, and we will do our utmost to restore it and the land which God has blessed [al-Harum al-Sharif in Jerusalem] to its rightful people. [applause]

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Islamic Bloc Spokesman Elected House Speaker

JN1711140690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1305 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Deputy Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat [spokesman for the Islamic Bloc] has been elected speaker of the House of Representatives. He received 41 votes as opposed to 28 votes for Sulayman 'Arar [former House of Representatives speaker]. There were 11 blank papers.

House Elects Two Deputies

JN1711201790 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The House of Representatives has elected members 'Atif al-Butush, and Dr. Muhammad Abu-'Alim first and second deputy speakers receiving 45 and 14 votes respectively.

Deputies Predict Changes

JN1811111790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" BY Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The victory Saturday of the new Parliamentary Unity Coalition (PUC) led by the Muslim Brotherhood, which was crowned by the election of 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat as speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, throws into question the future of the Mudar Badran government as we know it today.

Whether the result of the election will induce a major reshuffle, a new government headed by Mr Badran or a new prime minister remains unknown. Deputies and analysts, however, maintain that a change will occur even though they are unsure of its scope or timing.

A minister-deputy told the Jordan Times Saturday that he believed that a new government or a major reshuffle is possible, but that the prime minister would be reluctant to make any changes under direct pressure from the Islamic-led coalition.

The legislative branch cannot topple the government without a two- thirds majority. "But if a sizeable number of deputies petition for a new vote of confidence, the prime minister might opt for resignation rather than go through such a process in the House," the minister-deputy claimed. According to the House's by-laws 10 deputies can petition for a confidence vote by the whole House.

"If a reshuffle is to take place, the prime minister would do it on his own initiative rather than be pressured and forced into it," the minister added, stressing that this is his own personal opinion.

'Arabiyat declined to make a statement on what his party and the coalition expected from the government, saying it was too soon to comment on this issue. He, however, implied that a change might be desirable under the circumstances.

"We would like to have a strong government, but I cannot make any statement on this until more consultations (on the subject) are held," he told the Jordan Times shortly after his victory.

Deputies and analysts are certain that the relationship between the Badran government and Parliament will change now that the speakership is in the hands of the Muslim Brotherhood.

They expected that the added strength achieved by the Muslim Brotherhood in forming the PUC which includes over half of the 80 members of the House, will most likely conflict with the current makeup of the present cabinet. With a Muslim Brotherhood-led majority in Parliament, the implementation of the government programme and relationship with the different blocs and independent members of the House would be obstructed, they said.

Other deputies and observers, however, believe that the parliamentary majority would not have such a strong impact on a new or reshuffled government because the Muslim Brotherhood "proved in the last session that they could easily live with an appointed government.

An independent Islamic deputy told the Jordan Times that such a majority should demand the formation of their own government, contending that "they, Muslim Brothers, only want a few ministries in any new government."

The deputy, describing the Muslim Brotherhood, the largest single-bloc in Parliament, as "amatuer, simple, naive religious citizens," contended that there was no major threat to the government by the parliamentary majority.

"They would be happy with a few ministers, so there won't be any earthshaking changes," he said, adding that the majority would not "even dream of demanding the formation of their own government."

'Arabiyat's triumph yesterday was largely attributed to his groups's coalition with several independent Arab nationalist deputies led by Dhuqan al-Hindawi. Mr al-Hindawi played a central role in defeating Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, who was seen as a close ally of Prime Minister Badran.

"The future of the government will largely depend on what the ambitious al-Hindawi wants," said a deputy, who did not want to be further identified. "The Muslim Brothers are of course important, but remember that their alliance with al-Hindawi and his group is going to

affect the course of events," the deputy added. "It will largely depend on what he and the coalition want."

Coalition Caution Urged

JN1911074990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Nov 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Give in the Ground and Shifty Alliances"]

[Text] The Parliamentary coalition in the Lower House of Parliament that elected Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat as the new speaker is a double-edged sword that the country has to be careful about. To begin with, it was a coalition of convenience that purports to divide the spoils of last year's general parliamentary elections. Expediency runs through it like magic, with the motto "I rub your back if you rub mine" dominating its tactics if not its outright strategy. But this is not all. The worst victim of this coalition might be its end result, namely, the deprivation of the country of the kind of pluralism that constitutes the most sacred corner-stone in the edifice of democracy anywhere in the world. Yet the main villain in all of this was the absence of well-structured and mature political parties prior to the holding of parliamentary elections last November. The major pitfall of those elections was the fact that they were conducted in an amorphous political climate. In retrospect, it is amazing that the country plunged into full scale democracy without the benefit of political parties, a very serious omission whose rectification constitutes the first task of the Royal Commission for the National Charter.

There is no way democracy can further develop and take deeper roots in the body politic of the country without institutionalised pluralism. And it is this pluralism that cannot be nurtured without political parties to and with which the Jordanian electorate can relate and associate. Right from the word go, when the country took a decisive step in favour of democracy and parliamentary life, there were repeated cries calling for a constellation of political thought that would guide and educate the Jordanian voter on how to cast his or her vote intelligently and wisely. Until all the shortcomings of the last general elections are addressed, the country should not draw too many conclusions from them by way of reshuffling the Badran government or changing it altogether. It is much safer and wiser to view the present parliament as an experiment that may lead to an ever more representative parliament or even system of government.

Along with pluralism, the one-man, one-vote regime needs to be incorporated into the projected new election law. With all eyes focused now on the recommendations of the Royal Commission, there is no escape from holding another general parliamentary election under the umbrella of the findings and conclusions of that group once they are drafted into laws. Then and only then would the Lower House of Parliament become closer to the heartbeat of the country and privy to the pulse of the people. Meanwhile, one should not jump to hasty conclusions about the success of the new, all-too-powerful parliamentary coalition. It is there, it is true. But the ground under their —and everybody's— feet is too wet not to be still shifting.

King Husayn Addresses Youth Congress Opening

JN1811154790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1208 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Speech by King Husayn inaugurating the General Congress of Jordanian Youth in Amman on 18 November—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear sons, brothers and sisters: I am glad to be with you today as you are holding this General Congress of Jordanian Youth. I see in you the coming tomorrow and read in your faces the future of this homeland, to which fathers and forefathers have given a solid position and honorable stance. We have prepared you to carry on the mission and consecrated you to safeguarding the trust so that Jordan may remain, as it has always been known by its nation, steadfast in its trench, firm in its trend, and bent on being the legitimate heir of the Great Arab Revolt [applause] for the sake of the liberation of the homeland and the unity and comprehensive pan-Arab awakening of the nation. You, dear children, are the present of the homeland whose future will be as great as your loyalty and commitment to it. This homeland will grow bigger to the extent you make sacrifices for it. You are its hope for a mightier future; you are its hope, which is pinned on your minds and your hands. The generation of fathers and forefathers undertook the mission of struggle for freedom. It made sacrifices so that the banner of independence could be hoisted. It has been faithful to the pledge and loyal to the principles throughout the stage of national liberation. But you now are facing a more difficult stage. I am confident you will act at the level of the responsibilities and effort, care, and sacrifices this stage requires. [applause]

Dear children, you are now assuming your responsibilities at a time when the curtain has been drawn on the cold war. All forces seeking to realize their interests have proceeded to reshape our world in accordance with these interests. Therefore, the mission facing you is extremely important and difficult, but I am confident that, because you are aware of our reality and how our future should be, you will be able to assume the responsibility, perfom your duty, and play your big role to foil any attempt to marginalize your people and nation and prevent you from being an effective and noble element in the shaping of the future you desire for this nation and which you accept for your larger Arab homeland. Your generation, which is on the threshold of receiving the banner at a time when Jordan is resuming its democratic march, finds itself face to face with great accomplishments in various fields. We have managed to achieve them despite the scant resoures God Almighty has granted us. Therefore, you are starting yor practical life and assuming your responsibilites toward the homeland and its people on a

firm and broad foundation of facts that our generation managed to lay down through patience, sacrifice, and hard work.

The future generations have always been our constant concern. I am confident that you will add many more blocks to the structure if future generations remain your noble concern.

Dear children, we have faced the challenges with the firm belief and the determination to triumph. This confrontation has provided us with many means to score the achievements attained by this homeland, in which man has been, and still is, the most precious and noblest resource. You will face many challenges in light of democracy, in the phase of the post-cold war era, and in face of the dangers threatening a homeland like ours in the struggle to achieve conflicting interests. This harsh war between man and nature does not exclude anyone. Your duty is to be part of this struggle to preserve the environment and transform that war between man and nature into an equation that will put an end to the possible catastrophe and all the disasters that may result from disturbances in this equation. [applause]

If anyone can take pride for fulfilling his duty, I believe that such an opportunity has not been available at this level and dimension to any other family as it has been to our Jordanian family. For 40 years your country has shouldered its national and pan-Arab responsibilities in the face of the most serious episodes of conspiracy against the Arab character of your greater Arab homeland and the role of your glorious Arab nation.

The Arab-Zionist conflict has placed us in the forward, advanced trench, living the commitments due to this trench with all honor and shouldering its responsibilities with all faithfulness. The Palestinian cause has, and still is, our main cause. It is our daily concern and it lives in our heart and mind. No pressure has succeeded in changing our position, nor has it been weakened by challenges and temptations. Our destiny has been tied to its course. In all of this, we have proceeded from an unshakeable belief and unyielding determination that the Palestinian brothers must have their own state and that the Palestinian flag must be hoisted on Palestinian soil, particularly Holy Jerusalem, which God has blessed, along with its surroundings, until the Judgement Day. [applause]

My dear children: Just as it has been with your fathers and grandfathers, Jordan, whose future you represent and bright tomorrow you carry, Jordan will remain the homeland of steadfastness and constancy that bows its head only to God, no matter how severe the hardships and numerous the pressures and challenges. It is the homeland that sees its national security bound up with pan-Arab security, its dignity with that of the entire nation, and pride with that of all the Arabs. [applause]

Jordan shall remain faithful to the pledge and the message and committed to all pan-Arab dreams and aspirations. I am made all the more confident in this constancy by what I see in you—its youth and the men of its future, the symbol of its national unity, who are impervious to threats, dismissive of hegemony, and determined that your people and nation should play the role that has in humanity's march always sought dignity, security, and peace. [applause]

Your great Arab homeland is now facing most severe challenges. Either it emerges triumphantly united, or its enemies realize their plan of keeping us weak, disunited, and fragmented. I see in you the throbbing conscience of this nation—rejecting fragmentation, fighting on behalf of unity, resisting dependence, and championing liberation and freedom. [applause] In this arena of our great Arab homeland, you are the true heirs of the Great Arab Revolt triggered by the grandfathers to stand up to the conspiracy of division, disunity, and dependence. If the grandchildren of the authors of Sykes-Picot have failed over the past 70 years in their endeavor to realize their objectives in the depths of their fathers and grandfathers, they are now trying with the utmost ferocity to attain this destructive aim and turn what they put on paper into realities inside our psyches and minds and our consciences, thus providing our enemies with the opportunity to effect psychological division to complete the geographical one drawn by this conspiratorial agreement.

In this country, we have put our faith in a profound and large truth from which we will not deviate, nor will we have anyone dissuade us from addressing —and that is that the only contradiction is the one between the interests of our nation and those of our enemies, and that any attempt to make this contradiction and struggle into one among the peoples of our nation we will resist by word, deed, and determination. That which the enemies have failed to achieve over seven decades since the Sykes-Picot Agreement stands no chance, and we will see to it that it is aborted. [applause]

Dear children: Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, your country has adhered to the firm conviction that any dispute within our single Arab family is our responsibility to deal with. We must achieve a settlement that will keep for the nation the means of its awakening and foil the attempts of the forces lying in wait for it. Therefore, your country has stated, and is still stating, its position that any political settlement of the Gulf crisis must begin from our single Arab homeland, and that any Arab meeting at the summit level to achieve that settlement must proceed from the fact that we, and all well-meaning people in the nation, are concerned about making that objective the title and framework of the summit.

Bitter experience has underscored the fact that the greater the distance between our positions, the better the opportunity for the enemies and the covetous to infiltrate all our dreams and legitimate aspirations.

Our country was and still is the most concerned about the institution of the Arab summit. It has never failed to attend a single summit and it has performed its national

and pan-Arab role in every meeting at this level. Concerning the call for an Arab summit to discuss the Gulf crisis, we realize very well that there is a fine line between a meeting to settle our differences and confront the threats to our present and future, and a meeting to deepen the differences, thus giving the enemies and the covetous yet another opportunity. [applause]

Our country, which favors the institution of the Arab summit, realizes at this critical stage how much the nation needs a meeting that opens the door to peace and spares the homeland all disasters, a meeting that cannot serve as cover for the enemies to use to justify their inclination to war and aggression and to insult and humiliate us. The extent of danger to our Arab homeland and our glorious nation at this stage drives our enemies to use all means and to look for all gaps to achieve their objectives through the fragmentation and discord they are planning for us. But we trust that this will not affect the sons of the nation, who pledged and stressed the determination that they will defend their right to life and dignity, and the right of their coming generations in an Arab homeland that raises only its own banners, a homeland shouldering its responsibilities, performing its duties, and acting as part of this unified human family, enjoying all the rights it enjoys and having all the obligations it has. We, God willing, will achieve this goal and reach this target. [applause]

I salute you and I have full pride in you. I clasp your hands with love and confidence, and through you, I renew the pledge to dear Jordan that Husayn will continue to be the brother, father, and leader you have always known—a leader who believes in God only, and who has no confidence except in the nation. [applause] I realize that the future ahead of us lies in the nobleness and the greatness of the sacrifices of those who preceded us and all those who kept their pledge to God and the nation. May God grant you success in your march toward virtue, justice, and glory, and assist you in your determination to build this country and hold up the message to our coming generations. Peace be upon you. [applause]

Foreign Minister on Summit, Israeli Threats

JN1811082890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Nov 90 pp 20, 12

[By Ahmad Shakir]

[Text] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said the venue of the projected emergency Arab summit is not important; what is most important is creating the right circumstances for this summit and ensuring the factors of its success by avoiding the shortcomings of the last summit in Cairo and benefiting from that experience.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR commenting on the reports that Iraq has proposed an emergency summit in Jordan, al-Qasim said Jordan welcomes any Arab summit on its territory; however it has not yet received any official request from the Iraqi Government on the subject. He said all that has been said on the subject has only come in press reports.

Al-Qasim said: The current phase we are passing through requires before anything else an inter-Arab appraisal of what has happened during the past three months, that is since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis. This calls for an outlook which, above all, believes in Arab interests in their national concept as they affect Iraq and the State of Kuwait and in their pan-Arab concept as they affect relations among the Arab states.

Al-Qasim added that the Jordanian Government is encouraging and actually working for the creation of opportunities for an inter-Arab dialogue between the parties directly concerned, which is Iraq on the one hand and Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on the other.

Al-Qasim said Jordan is encouraging and working for a mini Arab summit to ensure the success of a full emergency summit. He affirmed that Jordan has not relented in its efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of the crisis and that it will continue such an endeavor.

Al-Qasim affirmed the importance of the Yugoslav foreign minister's recent visit to Jordan in his capacity as chairman of the current session of the nonaligned states and said the Nonaligned Movement has adopted a constant stand on the Gulf crisis, the peaceful solution, and the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, because this embodies the principles upheld by the movement and harmonizes with the phase marking the end of the cold war and the beginning of international detente.

Regarding Israeli threats to Jordan, al-Qasim said Israel resorts to such methods and exploits every opportunity to divert attention from the main problem, namely, its occupation of the Palestinian Arab territory and crimes against Palestinian civilians.

He said there is nothing new in such threats, which we have faced since the establishment of the Zionist entity. He pointed to the large scale propaganda campaign waged by Israel against Jordan and its leadership in order to shake the unity between the people and their leadership.

Prime Minister Notes Need for New Government

NC1911083690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has stated that the most significant quality of the second republic is that it should be a stage toward the establishment of the third republic. He pointed out that the fact that no constitutional amendment has been passed in the past 47 years caused a clear imbalance in the former regime. He asked how one can accept that it is impermissible to change the constitution when amendment of the constitutions of the other countries of the world takes place regularly.

In an interview in today's edition of AL-DIYAR, Prime Minister al-Huss added that the new election law will constitute the starting point for change, and that based on it a new administrative distribution of the provinces will take place.

Prime Minister al-Huss praised the Army commander, saying: I would have appointed General Lahhud twice, once when we needed a Maronite commander, and a second time if I had abolished the sectarian system and had searched for a competent candidate for the post, then I could not have found a more competent person.

Prime Minister al-Huss declared that after greater Beirut is established there will be a need for a new phase that will come through the formation of a new government. This will lend dynamism to all actions.

Defense Minister on Beirut, Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1811105290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Statement by Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur, followed by remarks in response to questions by an unidentified correspondent, after his meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss on 18 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mansur] I briefed his excellency the prime minister on the recent contacts on the Army's deployment in greater Beirut, as decided by the Cabinet. I also briefed his excellency on the final preparations being made for this and on some of the practical difficulties which we are trying to overcome and resolve before the deadline. I also discussed with his excellency the prime minister the issue of establishing a naval operations room to control the ports after the completion of the Greater Beirut Plan. We hope that matters will be accomplished smoothly as scheduled.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, have all obstacles facing the legitimate authority in the eastern area been removed following your meeting yesterday with [Lebanese Forces Commander] Dr. Ja'ja'?

[Mansur] The establishment of greater Beirut is a major national objective. I do not think that there are significant obstacles to this major national objective. Therefore, I do not think that anyone's pretexts or reasons can hamper the achievement of this important national objective. All matters are so far proceeding well, and the Greater Beirut Plan will be implemented on schedule.

[Reporter] Following a visit to the president of the Republic two days ago, the Phalangist Party linked the Lebanese Forces' withdrawal from al-Ashrafiyah with the withdrawal of other parties from the two al-Matn regions.

[Mansur] It did not link it with the withdrawal but with the regaining of its offices. We have completed our action in the two al-Matn regions. The Army is prepared to turn over immediately all party offices whose ownership is proven. The issue of the two al-Matn regions is closed, and there are no more problems in this regard. The Army is ready and has received orders to hand over party offices the ownership of which is proven. This problem is over, and now we are continuing the Army deployment in Beirut. We hope that this will be completed as scheduled.

[Reporter] A final question, Mr. Minister. Regarding Iqlim al-Tuffah, Israel has made attempts recently to hamper the implementation of the agreement. What will the appropriate response be?

[Mansur] These are the Israeli intentions. Our national decision is clear. It is, first, to implement the security plan and what has been agreed upon in Iqlim al-Tuffah, and second, to confront those who will obstruct this implementation, whether it is Israel or anyone else. With regard to Israel, its intentions are, of course, known. But our decision is also known. Our decision to liberate our territory is known and clear. Our duty is to liberate our territory. Israel is an occupying enemy. Its intentions are known.

Developments in Implementation of Beirut Plan

Army Deploys Along Coastal Road

NC1611175390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The [Lebanese Army's] 2d Brigade deployed today along the coastal road between Nahr al-Mawt and Nahr al-Kalb. The 5th Brigade's 57th Battalion and the 2d Brigade's 21st Battalion have been prepared to deploy in al-Ashrafiyah.

Other battalions of the 6th Brigade in Ra's al-Nab' and Sodeco have also been prepared for deployment in the area extending from the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah toward West Beirut.

Army's Deployment Delayed

NC1711102190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Army's deployment in greater Beirut has been delayed until some problems are resolved. These problems are summed up in the demand of the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces for the return to them of their offices in the two al-Matn regions.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Forces have begun dismantling their military installations inside residential neighborhoods and assembling their members in specific places in preparation for the continuation of the implementation of greater Beirut.

Radios View Implementation

NC1711192290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Member of the Ministerial Committee [Defense Minister] Albert Mansur visited Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' for three hours. They discussed all topics of interest, and initial reports indicated that agreement was reached on all issues and that the outcome has been positive. Minister Dallul did not participate in the meeting because he is in Rome to participate in an agricultural conference. Mansur and Ja'ja' may meet later to pursue their consultations.

Quoting Defense Ministry sources, AFP said there are no obstacles facing the establishment of greater Beirut and that the Lebanese Army has been ordered to return the offices owned by the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces in the two al-Matn regions.

[Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 17 November adds, "The Greater Beirut Plan will be implemented in full by 19 November. Attempts to impede or delay this peaceful and national plan are futile because the united Lebanese determination which is backed by Syria, the higher Arab committee, and the international commmunity, was the architect of the plan and the creator of the new united Lebanon.

"Political and official circles and religious leaders are unanimous in saying that the Greater Beirut Plan is not an issue for bargaining or subject to blackmail by any local party or on behalf of any other party."]

Meanwhile, a new wave of incidents is taking place in the two al-Matn regions on the eve of establishing greater Beirut. Armed men raided the home of citizen Ilyas al-Mayt in Ruwaysat al-Judaydah. They kidnapped him and took him in the direction of the Rumi area, where they beat him severely.

Two nights ago, armed men in Lebanese Army uniforms raided the homes of Tony al-Bisari and Murshid Rahmah in al-Ruwaysat al-Judaydah and threatened to kill their families. Also, the Hubayqah group kidnapped citizen Nimir Atinazikyah and detained him at the al-Judaydah center.

In another development, it has been learned that the Syrian Social Nationalist Party's armed group, which withdrew from the Phalangist Party's center in 'Awkar recently, has positioned itself on the first floor of the same building in the home of Nabil Abu-Nadir.

SSNP, Hubayqah Group in Al-Matn

NC1911120190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Citizen Munir Husayn al-Haj was kidnapped today in al-Ruwaysat al-Judaydah by Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] gunmen.

Before noon today, the Hubayqah group instituted armed vehicular patrols in al-Rawdah and al-Sabtiyah. Two of the armed men were identified as As'ad Nasr and Munir Andrawus.

Despite all reports about arrangements concerning the armed deployment of party men in the two al-Matn areas, observer security sources reported that the SSNP have established two armed posts on al-Dubayyah-'Awkar road and in the woods of Bayt al-Kuku. Meanwhile, the Hubayqah gunmen set up a main assembly center in Wadi Shahrur town, opposite the pharmacy, under the command of Lewis Abu-Khalil.

Junblatt Said Opposed to Plan

NC1711204090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Radio Free Lebanon has learned from reliable sources that Junblatt has announced at the last moment his rejection of the Greater Beirut Plan as it now stands. He is attempting to decrease the area of Greater Beirut nominally and to undermine the entire plan practically.

Junblatt has set the condition that greater Beirut should not include 'Alayh, Qabr Shmun, and al-Damur. In detail, Junblatt rejects the inclusion of al-Damur, Qabr Shmun, and 'Alayh in the Greater Beirut Plan except in the direction of the international highway in 'Alayh, not allowing the legitimacy to spread outside the periphery of this road.

The phases of the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan were a topic of discussion this evening among members of the two-man committee, Muhsin Dallul and Albert Mansur, and President Ilyas al- Hirawi, together with Army Commander General Emile Lahhud.

Junblatt on PSP, PLA

NC1811202590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], made a statement today in which he talked about current developments including, most importantly, the Greater Beirut Plan.

Junblatt said that with respect to the security plan, the PSP offered all the necessary facilities for the implementation of this plan despite the fact that the size of the mountain area covered under this plan is bigger than that in the eastern area. In addition, the so-called Lebanese Forces somehow kept part of al-Ashrafiyah using the excuse of a residence for Samir Ja'ja'. We will

disregard all these things, however, because we want peace and want to enter the era of development and reconstruction. Here, more than any time before, we demand a council for the mountain which must include the two al-Matn regions, 'Alayh, Kafr Shima, 'Aytat, and Suq al-Gharb, and all the villages damaged by the repeated and continuous wars. I believe that no one could deny us the mountain council. [passage omitted]

Junblatt added: As for the Popular Liberation Army [PLA], we cannot wait for the so-called principle of the rehabilitation [iqrar] of the militias, because the PLA is not a militia. The PLA is the army of the nationalists and the army of the Arabs in Lebanon. We want it to be part of the Lebanese Army as officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers, and quickly. We will not wait for an indefinite period of time. The same applies to the police, he added. It is true that the Civil Administration [in the mountain area] has shrunk. We ask the state to extend to the mountain—the mountain means from the Iqlim to Upper al-Matn—the funds needed for the development of these areas, and here comes the role of the mountain council. In the meantime, however, there will be a transient period, and we will not accept the starvation of the nationalists in these areas. [passage omitted]

Ja'ja' Calls for Dialogue

NC1811073090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] In an interview with QNA [QATARI NEWS AGENCY], Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' said he expects the Greater Beirut Plan to be implemented very soon. He asserted that the plan will go into effect despite everything.

Asked whether the Lebanese Forces are setting conditions in return for withdrawing from al-Ashrafiyah, Dr Ja'ja' said: This is an imperfect way of looking at the issue. When the Lebanese Forces give their opinion on any matter, it is said that they are setting conditions. When other parties set conditions, it is said that this facilitates the Greater Beirut Plan.

The Lebanese Forces commander emphasized that both the political and security aspects of the East Beirut issue must be dealt with so that the greater Beirut security plan will not become fragile and fail to provide the required stability to Lebanese citizens. He added that it is necessary to forge ahead with the greater Beirut security plan. He noted, however, that what is more important than this—what indeed should take precedence—is to proceed with a serious and profound dialogue with all the militias.

Concerning the date when the militias should hand over their weapons to the Lebanese State according to the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement, Dr. Ja'ja' said that this will be done if greater Beirut is established, the political dialogue makes progress, and agreement is reached on all the details of the al-Ta'if agreement.

Dr. Ja'ja' described some of the actions occurring in al-Matn as defiance of the Lebanese State. He called for the serious departure of all militias, including the Lebanese Forces, from greater Beirut.

The Lebanese Forces commander demanded that the al-Ta'if agreement be implemented in full without reordering the clauses or leaving out some parts and implementing others. He also called on all concerned parties to build the future Lebanese State on a basis of equality and with full responsibility by all. He pointed out that the al-Ta'if agreement is the starting point of the solution in Lebanon and an opportunity that must be treated earnestly. He said that unless this opportunity is seized, the situation in Lebanon will remain unchanged.

No Obstacles to Meeting Deadline

NC1911085090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] A government source has affirmed that greater Beirut will be established within the fixed time because there are no new obstacles facing its implementation. The source said there is still time to implement the plan before the deadline because the Army is ready and needs no more that two or three hours to deploy.

Defense Minister Warns Militias

JN1911095890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, 19 Nov (WAKH)—Lebanese Defense Minister Albert Mansur has declared that the al-Ta'if agreement will be implemented in full so that Lebanon can proceed toward a final solution.

In an interview with the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, Mansur affirmed that the Greater Beirut Plan will be implemented before the end of the second half of this month, indicating that steps in this direction are continuing and proceeding quietly because the legitimate authority wants to expedite the implementation of its security steps.

The Lebanese minister denied that there are obstacles hampering the legitimate authority's steps as a result of counterconditions put by security parties. He affirmed that what is being said about obstacles facing the legitimate authority's steps is absolutely unfounded.

Asked about the implementation of the decision to dissolve militias and whether it will be implemented immediately after the achievement of the Greater Beirut Plan, Dr. Mansur affirmed that the decision to dissolve militias is final, irreversible, and that it is an Arab and international decision.

He indicated that the militia leaders understand the dimensions of the decision and that any party that tries to hamper it will face a situation similar to that of

General 'Awn. He expressed conviction that the termination of 'Awn's rebellion was a clear message to all illegitimate forces.

The Lebanese defense minister said the next move will be equipping the Army to send it to the south in order to assume its national role there in confronting the Israeli occupation and deploying alongside the UN emergency forces to implement Resolution 425 which calls for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Albert Mansur added that the Lebanese Government has begun contacts with the officials of big powers to urge them to put pressure on Israel and prevent it from obstructing the legitimate authority's preparations to deploy the Army in the south when a decision to that effect is taken.

He indicated that international support for the al-Ta'if agreement does not only mean helping the legitimate authority to implement the decision of adopting constitutional reforms, dissolving militias, and ending internal wars, but also means assisting the legitimate Lebanese authority to send its Army to the south and to implement Resolution 425.

Developments in Iqlim al-Tuffah Withdrawals

Amal, Hizballah Agreement on Army

NC1711074090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] AFP has quoted a Syrian military source in Beirut as saying that an agreement was concluded between the Amal Movement and Hizballah last night on the deployment of the Army in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The source added that Amal leader Minister Nabih Birri and Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli had given their full and unconditional approval to Army deployment in the Iqlim.

The Syrian source pointed out that the Army Command will set the zero hour for this deployment at a later date. AFP reported that the agreement was concluded at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut in the presence of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, and Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

Reliable Iranian sources said that the agreement provides for the Army's deployment in two stages. The first will cover the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages, and the second will cover the area from al-Ghaziyah to al-Zahrani. The Iranian sources said Amal and Hizballah had pledged to remove all obstacles facing Army deployment.

AFP has reported that approximately 800 Lebanese soldiers arrived in Sidon yesterday to back up the Army deployment in Iqlim al- Tuffah. Press reports yesterday said that an Army logistics battalion, the 127th Battalion, arrived at the (al-Zughayb) barracks in the afternoon. This force is comprised of 17 personnel carriers, 20 trucks, two ambulances, and two military police vehicles.

Further on Army Deployment

NC1711072690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the Security and Intelligence Service of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, said last night: You can inform the Lebanese that an agreement has been reached between the Amal Movement and Hizballah to provide for the deployment of the Lebanese Army in Iqlim al-Tuffah in accordance with the plan drawn up by the Army Command. He said: It is up to the Army Command to set the deployment time. We have contacted Army Commander General Emil Lahhud and informed him of the agreement. We hope that the Army will deploy soon. Brig. Gen. Kan'an was speaking upon his arrival, together with Minister Nabih Birri, at the Bristol Hotel where the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon was holding a reception to mark the 20th anniversary of the corrective movement in Syria.

Minister Birri said: We have succeeded in reaching an agreement to provide for the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah in accordance with the plan drawn up by the Army Command. I think that the Army will need several days, perhaps a week, to finish preparing a force for deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah. He said: We have until the Army deploys in Iqlim al-Tuffah to complete our contacts with the Palestinians. I do not think that the Palestinians will pose a problem faced with the Army's deployment.

Minister Birri last night contacted President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and briefed them on the agreement which was reached.

Radio Details Situation

NC1911081590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Excerpts] New steps are expected in the coming hours to achieve a further relaxation between Hizballah and the Amal Movement, represented by the release of prisoners and the setting of the zero hour for the Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah after Hizballah and Amal militants have withdrawn from the area. [passage omitted]

It has been learned that the Army Command will make contacts today to coordinate the withdrawals and fix the zero hour for the Army's deployment, and that these contacts will include the Palestinian leadership. [passage omitted]

As for the exchange of prisoners, this process was delayed for some time by the Palestinian intervention. The pro-'Arafat group impeded the process for a few hours, demanding that they be allowed to retrieve the bodies of some of their men who had been killed during the war against the Islamic resistance. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Lebanese and International Red Cross teams evacuated a number of wounded and sick people.

Also, electricity and water-repair teams resumed their work yesterday. [passage omitted]

The Joint Security Committee continued its tours of the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages to clear possible obstacles and to outline a plan for the expected withdrawals in the coming days, as well as the return of people to the Iqlim.

Palestinians Impede POW Exchange

NC1911075790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] In Iqlim al-Tuffah, the four-party committee of Amal and Hizballah representatives, Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, and Iranian Ambassador Hasan Akhtari, succeeded in opening the roads connecting the various Iqlim villages.

Contacts continue to secure the release of POW's held by Amal and Hizballah.

At midnight last night the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] was informed that the release of POW's and detainees had been impeded and that the date for this release was postponed until today. The ICRC yesterday arranged for two buses to enter Jba' and transport Amal's POW's, who were assembled in the township's official school. According to some reports, the Palestinians refused to allow the two buses to enter the township and demanded that Hizballah first release six Palestinian detainees that it is holding.

Events Relating to Western, Mideastern Hostages

Fadlallah Urges Release of All

NC1611182690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] 'Allamah Fadlallah has called for the release of the Western and Middle Eastern hostages in Lebanon.

In his Friday sermon, he said: We must work to close the dossier of the hostages and of the unjustly detained people, be they Iranians, Americans, Europeans, or [word indistinct]. He added: This entire file must be closed because the whole issue is a humanitarian one. He noted that the current visit of relatives of four Iranians who had been kidnapped by the Lebanese Forces has reminded the world of their [word indistinct].

He said if someone believes that freeing the hostages will be in favor of Western countries such as America and others, we say that their release will be for the sake of humanity, because the release of an innocent hostage serves the human aspect which is not aloof from the (?Islamic) aspect at all.

Ja'ja' Remark on Iranians Recalled

NC1711130990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Patriarch Sfayr today met a delegation of the families of the four Iranians abducted in Lebanon. The wife of one of the abducted Iranians said that the delegation came to ask his beatitude to assist in the release of the four Iranians. It is worth noting that Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' had said in an interview with AL-SHIRA' that [former Lebanese Forces Commander] Elie Hubayqah executed the four Iranians immediately after their abduction.

Bomb Explodes in Tripoli; Israeli Planes Overfly

NC1811121690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] AFP reported that a bomb exploded this morning at the entrance to Tripoli, causing material damage.

[Paris AFP in English at 0857 GMT on 18 November reports in a Tripoli-datelined item: "A bomb exploded Sunday near a Syrian army checkpoint in this northern port city shattering windows in the vicinity but causing no casualties, a correspondent said.

["The charge was placed under a palm tree on the coastal highway that links Beirut and Tripoli."]

Meanwhile, Israeli military aircraft flew over Beirut and the mountain before noon today.

Al-Asad Receives Soviet Envoy Belonogov

JN1811185890 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and special envoy of the Soviet leadership, at 1800 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov.

Belonogov conveyed greetings from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to the president. The president thanked him and asked him to convey similar greetings and his best wishes to President Gorbachev and the friendly Soviet people.

The meeting revolved around the Gulf crisis and the situation in the region.

Al-Ahmar Delivers Corrective Movement Speech

JN1611200090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1613 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Speech on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, delivered by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party, at a speech rally in the Damascus University auditorium—live]

[Excerpts] Comrade strugglers, ladies and gentlemen, masses of our Arab nation all over the great Arab homeland, esteemed attendees: On this great day on which we celebrate a dear anniversary for us all, the 20th anniversary of the glorious Corrective Movement, we are overwhelmed by a feeling of pride and dignity. Sharing this feeling with us are the members of our party and its strugglers, the sons of our Arab people in Syria, and the Arab masses who believe in the objectives of their pan-Arab liberation struggle and who are determined to press ahead in the march of struggle behind the leadership of the hero of correction, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad [applause], in order ultimately to build up an Arab socialist united society. [passage omitted]

Comrades: On the pan-Arab level, Syria's revolution has become, in the era of correction, an impregnable fortress defending the fateful causes of the Arab nation and its genuine interests, and giving momentum to the spirit of struggle against the real enemies of the nation. Syria proceeds from the fact that the first and noblest objective of any pan-Arab struggle movement is acting to establish Arab unity by providing the conditions and circumstances of unity and making it live in the minds and hearts of the masses, and by constantly emphasizing it as a guiding objective of any pan-Arab movement, because unity represents the essence of Arab being and its destiny and represents the return to the normal situation of the nation. In this regard, Syria has been struggling indefatigably to foil all schemes to obstruct unity—or even to impede any step toward Arab solidarity, and to thwart any level or formula of this solidarity so as to fragment the Arabs and drag them into marginal disputes that would divert them from the fateful conflict with the Zionist enemy, preoccupy them to divert their support from the cause of Palestine, and waste their human and material capabilities in the wrong direction away from the correct position, which is support for the central pan-Arab cause of contemporary Arab struggle embodied in our nation's unceasing conflict with the Zionist enemy in defense of the Arab destiny and future and to liberate the occupied land and restore usurped Arab rights.

Proceeding from this premise, therefore, the October War was a war against the real enemy of the Arab nation—an enemy that occupied Arab land, displaced kinfolk, and threatened the Arab's fate. It was not a war like those fruitless wars launched by others in the wrong place and direction, but it was the most prominent victory in the contemporary life of our nation, which is added to the glories of our nation and its civilization that has contributed a great deal to the progress of humanity.

Comrades: These are just some of the significant events and concepts of the Corrective Movement within the context of the march of the party and the masses. Our celebration this year takes place after we reaped one of the march's fruits represented in the end of 'Awn's rebellion against the legitimate Lebanese authority—a rebellion that impeded national accord in Lebanon for about two years. This victory is one of the most important victories of Lebanese nationalism and pan-Arabism after foiling the scheme concluded on 17 May and after the October War of liberation.

This victory would not have been achieved had it not been for the support extended by the valiant Syrian Arab forces to the Lebanese Army. This achievement, thus, has given impetus to the march of accord and peace in Lebanon—a march that will continue and will not stop until the Lebanese people restore the unity of their country, liberate their south from the Zionist occupier, and build up their solid domestic front in their unified, free, and independent homeland with an Arab identity and affiliation. It is a victory for Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab nation. It is the basic foundation for consolidating Lebanese national accord, restoring security and stability to this fraternal country and closing the doors to all the forces and sides that supported 'Awn and used his rebellion as a destructive element against the unity and stability of Lebanon and against Syria's pan-Arab policy.

Terminating 'Awn's rebellion was the basic step after which many implementation steps followed, which Lebanon had not witnessed throughout the years of its ordeal. For, we have the plan of greater Beirut, the withdrawal of the militias as a prelude to abolishing them, the establishment and enhancement of the unity of the Army, other constitutional reforms, and liberating the occupied south from the Zionist occupation forces so as to spread the authority of the legitimate government all over Lebanese territory. This would restore Lebanon to normal—an independent, free, and unified Arab country whose sons enjoy peace, stability, security, and equality in their homeland. This would also enhance the

distinguished brotherly ties with its twin brother Syria, and enable Lebanon to perform its positive role in the march of its Arab nation.

Struggler comrades: The March revolution has confirmed that the only yardstick against which the movement must be judged is that of pan-Arab interests. Hence, Syria's position has always been the right one. This is because those who discard the myopic perspective and proceed from a pan-Arab awareness cannot go wrong. Pan-Arab awareness elevates its advocates above trifles and narrow regional and local interests, and enables them to delve deep into the substance of events so they do not drift along under illusions and falsehoods.

In this context we would recall Syria's pan-Arab stand when the Iraqi regime launched its senseless war against the Islamic revolution of Iran. Our stand on the war has been shown to be sound, since the situation was restored to what it had been prior to the war after eight years of devastation, and a huge waste of the resources of Iraq and the nation's human, material, economic, political, and moral resources. The senseless war ended after leaving behind negative consequences for Arabs and Muslims and considerable benefits to Israel, Zionism, and world imperialism.

From this pan-Arab view, our party today builds its position on Iraq's invasion, occupation, and annexation of Kuwait as well as the tragedy that this dangerous event has produced in terms of the Arab future and the international relations. Things cannot be properly understood outside the framework of a pan-Arab perspective. The speech of the struggler comrade Hafiz al-Asad at the commencement of the young parachutists on 12 September was an embodiment of this principle and an illustration of the event that has shaken the Arab nation and also stands as a rebuttal of all allegations and arguments that hold no water.

The question to be asked is: Who has lost the most from what has happened, comrades? Is it not the Arab nation and its central cause of Palestine, and the Arab edifice that has suffered a deep split? Who has gained the most from what has happened, comrades? Is it not Israel, the Arabs archenemy? Prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Syria had sought to end marginal intra-Arab differences and to restore effective Arab solidarity with the rallying point being the key pan-Arab issue—the Arab-Zionist conflict, which has always been and still is our nation's foremost struggle. This is all the more so since the occupied Arab land is the target of a huge wave of Zionist settler immigration bringing unprecedented risks and constituting, at this juncture, an advanced stage in the Zionist project to attain Greater Israel. Syria's move was principally prompted by a desire to mobilize Arab resources and potential against the actual challenges of the Zionist danger sitting on our land and threatening our future. Syria also wanted to eliminate all trouble spots that produce spurious issues and illusions, cause needless problems that split the Arabs and squander their resources and energies anew, that destroy their united action and their solidarity in the face of their common enemy, and that hamper their action and struggle on behalf of their grand pan-Arab unity.

Comrades, if we judge matters on the basis of their causes and results, then Syria immediately announced following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait with a loud and clear voice that what had taken place represents a new pan-Arab tragedy whose impact has gone beyond that of the Iraq-Iran war. In fact, its impact has been far more serious than that of the Iraq-Iran war. It is a pointless exercise, a gross pan-Arab, historical, national, and ethical mistake that cannot be forgiven. The loser again will be the people of Iraq, the people of Kuwait, and the entire Arab nation. The incident caused further Arab bleeding, a malignant cancerous wound that has spread to cover most of the intra-Arab relations. It has even become an international hotbed of threats, in which foreign forces have intervened and around which interests and policies have become intermingled. With Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, the situation became one of broad world solidarity condemning this occupation and annexation, calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal and for the restoration of the legitimate authority to Kuwait.

We hoped that this world solidarity would be, as was the case following the October War, a solidarity of Arabs against their Zionist enemy, which has usurped their rights and occupied their land. In the midst of this new crisis from which our nation and region are suffering, the practice of double standards by the United States comes to the fore when it opposes what Iraq has done and calls for its withdrawal from Kuwait but at the same time, has found in it a new excuse to support Israel with additional quantities of destructive weapons and huge funds that are being spent to settle the Jewish newcomers in Palestine.

Syria once again sounds the alarm, and calls on all Arabs to realize the real perils caused by the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, including this great additional assistance the United States is offering to Israel through exploiting the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Therefore, all Arabs should join their efforts to solve this serious crisis on the basis of first tackling its causes. Such a solution would be embodied in Iraq's implementation of the Arab summit resolution, starting with the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the restoration of the situation to what it was before 2 August. This solution will save Iraq, Kuwait, and all the Arabs from a destructive danger that will continue to engulf them if Iraq continues to be intransigent and refuses to withdraw from Kuwait.

Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait will help return the Arab situation to a state of solidarity against the Zionist enemy. It will also help to end the pretexts for the arrival of foreign forces in the Gulf, and reunite Arab efforts to secure the departure of these forces following the settlement of the problem that resulted from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Brothers and comrades, the Arabs have been victims of aggression in their contemporary history. The Zionist aggression continues to take place on their land. Throughout their contemporary struggle history, the Arabs have become one of the most important elements opposing aggression in the world. They always support the party against whom aggression has been committed in any region whatsoever. Therefore, how can the Arabs oppose aggression while committing aggression against one another? Relations among the brothers include principles of international legitimacy in addition to higher principles. If every country in the world expects other countries to respect its security in accordance with UN legitimacy, then the brother expects from his brother not only to respect his right to security but that of solidarity, and trust in accordance with pan-Arab principles and common destiny. Aggression against the brother can never be accepted under any excuse, claim, or justification. Flamboyant pan-Arab slogans such as unity, historical rights, and fair distribution of national resources can never be a cover for aggressive practices. The brother has no right to attack his brother under the cover of these slogans. Unity cannot take place through oppression and injustice or through the renunciation of one another their complete cancellation. Unity is based on pan-Arab awareness. Its content is popular determination. Its means is joint unity action. As for historical rights, I remember what President struggler Hafiz al-Asad said in his recent speech [applause and chanting] that all of us know that the current Arab reality is full of mistakes from the point of view of pan-Arab history. If we want to correct these mistakes by this method, then we will have a series of intra-Arab wars and wars between Arabs and foreigners. President al-Asad also said that whoever wants to correct past history will first have to invest serious and rational efforts in the cause of advancing pan-Arab consciousness, and back them up with serious intra-Arab cooperation in all material and spiritual areas and allow the necessary time for them to develop and mature. Thus, we believe that we will be proceeding on a safe and promising course that will lead us to a correct and sound Arab history. Any other course is one that is perilous to us, and destructive.

Comrades: In times of ordeal the chances for loss are greater, confusion takes root, and options become jumbled up. However, in times of ordeal [repeats the sentence] there is an increase in ability to differentiate good from bad. Times of ordeal stimulate the determination of the true strugglers and reaffirm their ability to use a compass that reveals the correct path.

Syria is today proceeding from pan-Arab principles, since it was the first country to take action, in the person of its leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], toward seeking an Arab and peaceful solution to the crisis, because it realized right from the very beginning that if this solution is hampered, it would mean that developments would lead to destruction and catastrophe whose course and end no one can predict.

Before and after the invasion of Kuwait, the Arab-Zionist struggle remains our crucial struggle. Israel, which continues to implement its expansionist and aggressive schemes against the Arabs, is now exploiting the crisis to the utmost and is practicing the harshest policy of organized oppression and terrorism against the Palestinian Arab people, who are confronting the occupation with courage and strength, and against the heroic Palestinian intifadah, which has nearly completed its third year. The intifadah now, more than ever before, requires Arab solidarity and unity of action along its side against the continuing Zionist aggression.

The intifadah is escalating day by day to mark out for every capitulationist and defeatist the path of solution that the Zionists understand. It embodies the nation's genuine character in clinging to struggle to attain its rights. It symbolizes the nation's ability to create new forms of struggle depending on requirements and circumstances. This escalating intifadah complements the pan- Arab victory in Lebanon and the Lebanese nationalist struggle against the Zionist enemy and its agents. It also complements the resistance of our steadfast people in the occupied Golan Heights, who daily express their rejection of occupation, annexation, and Judaization, and who are stepping up their struggle in confronting the Zionist enemy and its terrorist and oppressive machine.

All this, dear comrades, is also complementary within the framework of the indivisible pan-Arab struggle that Syria supports, protects, and works to reinforce as an Arab reality with great influence.

Dear comrades, dear brothers: In all this, Syria is aware of the international extensions of the pan-Arab struggle, which is, in essence, an important factor and basic tributary to the struggle of all peoples for international peace, liberation, and freedom. Therefore, Syria's stand has always sided with the liberation struggle of peoples for their independence, development, and progress, and for ending hegemony and control over their resources. Syria supports and backs the liberation movements of people who are struggling for their liberation, freedom, and development. It also takes a firm stand with all forces that support the pan-Arab struggle of our nation, and participates in the struggle of all peoples for the sake of freedom, development, and peace.

Syria, along with all the faithful, works hard to consolidate a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace in our region that will put an end to aggression and annihilate its effects. As a result of this, our nation can retrieve its occupied territory and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people, especially their right to repatriation, self-determination, and setting up their independent national state on their soil—Palestine.

Syria backs all efforts to put an end to war and the arms race in the world and to realize detente and cement coexistence under whose umbrella hegemony and control over the resources of the nation are done away with, and oppression, exploitation, and injustice of all nations

is removed. Nations can then interact under coexistence and benefit from the scientific development that would enrich human civilization, protect human existence, and provide peace, security, and stability to all human beings in their various countries and homelands.

Dear comrades, dear brothers, this is Syria's policy. Its march continues to attain the goals of the revolution and the Corrective Movement. It will not stop despite all difficulties it might encounter. It is capable of overcoming obstacles in the future as it has overcome obstacles in the past and emerged triumphant. Therefore, it always proceeds from that experience—a rich and comprehensive one—the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party's experience, which is characterized by clarity of vision and correct comprehensive pan-Arab views. This experience, conceived in the mind of struggler Hafiz al-Asad [applause], his struggling practices, and his leadership of the triumphant march, has played the dominant role in the high standard it has reached.

I salute the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, the leader of this pure experience, and all its strugglers throughout the Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

Press Says Lebanon Will Create Greater Beirut

JN1811092690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0815 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 18 Nov (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH considers the creation of Greater Beirut a significant step toward completing the national accord process which began with the collapse of the rebellion. It is impossible to set any obstacle in the way of implementing the al-Ta'if agreement, the paper says.

Commenting in today's editorial, the paper affirms that Greater Beirut will definitely be established and the legitimate Lebanese government will not permit anyone henceforth to tamper with the security of the citizen and the homeland. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the same subject under the headline "Rallying Around Legitimacy," the newspaper TISHRIN affirms that there can be no peace with any party that tries to hamper the deployment of the Lebanese Army and the establishment of government authority on all parts of the capital.

The Lebanese issue, the paper says, has entered the phase of final settlement and the Lebanese are unanimous that the move toward uprooting sedition and laying the foundations of a solid, just, and democratic society has never been so earnest. [passage omitted]

Also commenting on the same subject under the headline "There Is No Going Back," AL-THAWRAH says implementing the Greater Beirut plan as scheduled is very important since it represents the beginning of national unity, which is the best means to achieve Lebanon's dreams in all of its areas.

The paper adds: Syria continues to stand strongly and resolutely behind the Lebanese legitimate government in every step it takes, not just in creating Greater Beirut, but in every endeavor to implement the national accord document.

Peace-Keeping Force in Territories Urged

JN1811212090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: There is no doubt that Israeli terrorist practices have escalated tension inside the occupied territory while Israel continues to resort to the most bestial methods of annihilation against our people in the occupied homeland. These acts have reached a dangerous point, threatening the Arab citizens with annihilation and liquidation. There is no doubt either that deterring Israel from these terrorist and fascist practices requires collective international measures, not only resolutions and statements of denunciation and condemnation. Consequently, there is a need for effective international measures to force Israel to respect international legitimacy, put an end to its terrorist and bestial plans, and curb its aggressive and expansionist policy.

The international community's hesitation to take practical measures to curb Zionist crimes against the sons of the occupied homeland is no longer justified. It is also no longer possible to accept Israel's continuous and intransigent rejection of the measures to protect the Arab citizens from occupation, its rigid implementation of a hard-line and fascist policy against them, its bypassing of their human and political rights, or its continuing policy of displacing them, annihilating them, putting them in jails, and attacking them with bullets and poisonous gas.

Remaining silent over these crimes of the Zionist enemy means remaining silent over truth and a violation of humanity and international legitimacy. And this is what Israel is trying to exploit and employ toward more repression and terrorism and toward fascist methods whose danger to the Arabs exceeds that of Nazism against humanity and mankind during World War II.

Gentlemen: It has become clear that to put an end to these serious, ugly Zionist practices first requires that international organizations shoulder their full responsibilities to save and protect our Palestinian Arab people under the yoke of occupation from fascist, bestial Zionist terrorism. At the top of these concerned organizations that should move quickly and immediately is the UN Security Council in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention dealing with the protection of civilians during wartime.

Israel is not violating the rights of these civilians during wartime only; it is premeditatedly launching a war against them, ignoring all international charters or human laws. It is also rejecting all calls to stop committing crimes and massacres, and it has intentionally

continued to commit them before the eyes and ears of the whole world. What is more surprising is the fact that international parties in charge of world security and peace and of protecting citizens under occupation are still incapable of curbing these terrorist Israeli practices, which are not hidden from anyone, because they are an integral part of a continuous and firm Israeli policy; they are on the tongue of all political and media quarters in the world.

Is it not time yet for the world to open its eyes to the terrorist hotbed Israel is? Is it not time yet to take effective international measures to stop its crimes and deter its bestial and criminal methods? Is it not time yet to stop the bloodbath carried out by the enemy soldiers and the Zionist settlers against the defenseless civilians in the occupied territory? Is it not time yet for the international community to restore to those citizens some of their political and human rights and to force Israel to respect and accept these rights?

Gentlemen: These questions are raised by the Geneva Convention's protection and commitments in the occupied territory. This is because the Convention clearly and specifically bans collective or individual deportations, destruction of property, and changes in the status of the occupied homeland and the citizens under the yoke of occupation. Israel ignores all this and practices the opposite; it finds no one to deter it or set the limits. When will consciousness come? And when will the international community shoulder its responsibilities and duties as organized and defined by international laws and principles? This can be achieved by deploying peace-keeping forces in the occupied Arab territory to protect the Palestinians from Israeli attacks. And this is the direct responsibility of the Security Council in view of the Israeli escalation in the occupied homeland.

India

PRC's Li Peng Accepts Invitation To Visit

BK1611134490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The Chinese premier, Li Peng, has accepted the invitation to visit India. No firm date has been worked out so far and the matter is under discussion with the Chinese Government. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the visit of Mr. Li Peng is not linked with his trip to some of the countries in the region. He said New Delhi remains committed to the strengthening of the process of dialogue and understanding with Beijing.

The invitation to the Chinese premier was given by the then prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in December 1988 and later renewed by Mr. V.P. Singh and the new prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar.

Vice President Cautions on 'Foreign Elements'

BK1711095590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has cautioned the countrymen to be vigilant against some foreign elements who are trying to disturb peace to block the development of the country. He was inaugurating today the newly constructed museum of the Border Security Force [BSF] academy at Patanpur near Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. He called upon the people to cooperate with military and paramilitary forces in protecting the country's integrity. The museum has been constructed as part of the silver jubilee celebration of the Border Security Force. It presents the pictorial history of 25 years of the BSF. Some of the arms seized from the terrorists have also been displayed.

Shekhar Sees 'New Depth' in Ties With Nepal

BK1611135090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] New Delhi has expressed the confidence that there would be a new depth and content in the unique relationship between India and Nepal with the dawning of a new era of democracy in Nepal. This was conveyed by the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, in his reply to a message of felicitations sent by his Nepalese counterpart, Mr. Bhattarai. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the people of Nepal and the causes championed by them had always been close to his heart.

Details of Shekhar Confidence Vote Reported

BK1611162890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has won the vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha. He proved his majority on the floor of the house with 269 members voting in favor of the government motion. A total of 488 members were present in the house. Two hundred and four members voted against the motion, while 15 abstained.

Our parliamentary correspondent says that voting was on party lines as expected. The Congress-I and its allies—the AIADM [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], the National Conference, and the Muslim League members—voted for the motion along with the Janata Dal-S [Socialist]. The Janata Dal and the left parties voted against. The Bharatiya Janata Party, which withdrew support to the V.P. Singh government, voted against as well. The Akali Dal- Mann and the Bahujan Samaj Party abstained as announced earlier.

It may be recalled that today's special session of the Lok Sabha was specifically called to test the majority support to the government formed by Mr. Chandra Shekhar as directed by the president.

Replying to an over seven-and-a-half-hour debate, the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, said there will be no compromise on the unity and integrity of the country, while pursuing the policies for the welfare of the minorities and the weaker sections. He said he will also not compromise on the dignity of the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes [socially weaker sections of people] and the feeling of the backward classes, nor will there be any cause for apprehension in so far as the protection of the minorities is concerned. The house later adjourned sine die.

Underlining the need for austerity, the prime minister said foreign assistance will be taken only in the critical areas of the economy. He said he was fully aware of the limitations of his government. But he would never be a puppet in the hands of anyone. Referring to the charge of inciting defections, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said it was his and his colleagues' national duty to defend and protest against the things that were happening during the old regime.

Shekhar Stresses Unity

BK1611163290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has said the immediate task before his government is to restore law and order in the country. Talking to Doordarshan [television] soon after winning the vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha this evening, the prime minister said the feelings of the people have to be assuaged by giving a healing touch. He called upon the people not to fight amongst themselves but to restore peace and amity. He said cordiality is a must in order to have prosperity and progress. He said his government will also give priority to improve the economic situation, which is in bad shape. With the willing cooperation of the people, his government will be able to restore normalcy not only in the political field, but also in the economic sphere.

On SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], he said all countries of the subcontinent

should work together to end poverty and not have any confrontation with each other.

Shekhar Addresses Nation on Future Tasks

BK1711164690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's address to the nation—recorded]

[Text] My fellow countrymen! I have come to you to make an appeal. You are the strength of today and hope of tomorrow. Upon your shoulders depends the future of this country. It is true that we are facing a difficult time—dificult time in many ways. The most difficult problem before the nation is that there is a sense of apprehension in the mind of many people. Our minorities feel apprehensive because they feel that their life is not secured. Scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people are not able to live the life of dignity. Our backward classes feel that they are not getting their due from the society. Our young men feel that they are not getting the opportunity to contribute to the production of this nation and earn a life of diginity and honor. These are the problems which are (?glaring) us in our face.

In spite of all our efforts during the last four decades, we have not been able to remove hunger, poverty, squalor, and misery from this land. This is unfortunate. Indeed, this is [word indistinct]. Nature has bestowed upon us everything possible. We have a fertile land, we have a good climate, and above all we have got all the natural resources that are required for the development, prosperity, and progress of this nation. We have the biggest asset the manpower.

Our people are ready to work. Our toiling masses, farmers, and workers work hard, but in spite of that they are not getting a better future for themselves. Our biggest asset, the manpower, has to be taken care of. If we have to build a new India, we will have to invest in men. When I talk of investing in men, our first care should be the child. Every child who comes to this world deserves that he should get clean water, necessary calories for his growth, elementary education, primary health services. If these are provided to every child, he will grow into healthy citizen.

There is outmoded system of caste and unfortunately in our country, people are discriminated on the basis of religion. This should go. Any discrimination on the basis of caste and religion has to be eliminated. Then only we can provide equal opportunity to all our young men to contribute for the progress of this country. These things if are to be taken care of, we should always remember that we are a scarce-resource society. [sentence as heard] We have to decide how to invest our resources. Whether these resources are going to meet the basic minimum needs of our people, or we are going to squander it away for the [words indistinct]. We have very little choice. There is no alternative. Gandhi taught us austerity. Austerity is not mere slogan. It is our economic strategy because without the willing cooperation of our people we cannot produce more. Without producing more, we cannot bring more health to this country. In a democratic set up, willing cooperation is possible only when we give them the confidence that what they produce will be utilized for better future for their children, not for the [words indistinct].

I want to make an appeal to all those who are privileged, in one way or the other, that if poverty is there, everybody will have to share poverty. I do not mean that they should not get the facilities for better functioning, but they should convince the people who are hard working that they are concerned about their future. If not about their future, the future of their children. So the whole economic strategy has to be changed. There is a talk of liberalization in this country. Liberalization is a must. But liberalization for what. If it means that there should no curb on the initiative of the people, it is welcomed. If it means that there should not be nepotism and corruption, it should be adhered to. But if it means that scarce resources are to be squandered away, this should not be allowed. It is only because we are in a position where we should realize that we cannot be bailed out by others. I think that in many areas we shall require help from people outside. Technical help, foreign assistance, it is all welcomed. But there is a limitation to everything. Ultimately, we will have to depend upon our own resources.

The economy is in a bad shape. But there is a possibility—intrinsic vitality of our people and vitality of our economic structure—that we can bring out this country from muddy mire of misery and misfortune. I hope and trust that in this task we shall get the cooperation of all sections of our people. This cooperation we need from the industrialists, from traders, and also from Indians who are living abroad. They are as good patriots as we are. In this hour of crisis I want their help and support and I assure them that any sense of stability is misplaced. India is on the firm ground. In near future we shall be able to bring it on the par with other nations of the world which are more developed. But for that we require hard work. For that we require a little bit sacrifice—sacrifice by those who are in a position to make sacrifice. But everything is possible only when we learn not fight among ourselves. For that we need a healing touch.

Unfortunately, there is problem in Kashmir, problem in Punjab, certain problems are raising their heads in Tamil Nadu and Assam. These problems are to be tackled with a sense of reconciliation. Any path of confrontation is going to do great harm not only to the country, but also to the people, who resort to this confrontist path. I appeal to the young men who have taken to violence: If you want to have a solution of these problems, we will have to learn the way of Mahatma Gandhi, the path of nonviolence, of peace. Out of the organized will of the people you can change everything. I think that people will learn that death is gruesome—whether death comes because of terrorist activity or because of police action. The government will never like to have any police action unless and until it is forced, it is forced to that situation.

I humbly appeal to all the people that they should give up violence and try to come to the mainstream to contribute for the development of this country.

There is dispute on Babri Masjid and Ram Janmabhoomi [mosque-temple], I think that we shall find out a way by reconciliation, by mutual discussion. Religion in my opinion does not seek confrontation. Religion asks us to live like brothers. I hope that people will understand that we should eschew politics which wants to go on the path of religion. I hope and trust that religious leaders of Muslim and Hindu communities will come to some understanding. Everybody wants that Ram [temple] should be constructed in Ayodhya. But not by demolishing the mosque. This can be done only by mutual understanding. Otherwise, any confrontation will be disastrous not only for the immediate future but it will create a misunderstanding for all times to come. I hope and trust that soon we shall find some way out to solve this problem.

In the same way, people are fighting in the name of caste—on the question of reservation. Time-old system of caste has created a situation where certain backward classes are also economically backward. They have to be taken care of. Reservation on the caste line cannot be done away totally. But I understand and I agree that because of the lop-sided development of our economy, certain people in the upper caste are also poor. Their aspirations and hopes are also to be taken into consideration. We shall have to make a sincere effort and find a solution of these problems.

In Assam and Tamil Nadu also, I shall appeal to the people that they should not resort to the path of destruction and path of terrorism. That will not lead us anywhere. I hope and trust that people will realize that only in amity, harmony, and cordiality we can solve our problems. For solving the problem of poverty, reconciliation is necessary.

As it is true in this country, it is true of this subcontinent. This is the area of poverty. If we fight amongst each other, we shall not be able to fight against poverty and squalor. And, I think that while India will cooperate with all the nations of the world, we shall like to have best of friendly relations with our neighbors. I hope and trust that political leaders in these areas will realize the necessity of cooperation, cordiality, and goodwill among the nations of this subcontinent, and if there was cooperation and help, we shall march together on the path of progress and prosperity toward a new world order where this subcontinent once again will show the path of world peace and amity.

I hope and trust that in this great task we shall get the cooperation of all our people. I appeal to all the political parties, all the intellectuals, all the industrialists and traders that they should contribute their might in order to alleviate the miseries of our people. High prices are eating at the vitals of our people and the wage-earning class is the worst sufferer. I hope and trust that traders will cooperate with me in this task to bring down prices. I am also confident that people in all spheres of life will work hard for the cordiality and goodwill of our people. The age of confrontation should be changed in the age of understanding, compassion, and cordiality. With this hope, I have to come to you to make an appeal and I hope and trust that in this great task I shall get the cooperation of all you. Thank you. Jai Hind [Hail India].

Ex-Kashmir Head Reassured by Shekhar Meeting

BK1611151190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has expressed the hope that the center will take necessary measures to restore confidence of the people in Kashmir. Dr. Abdullah, who held a series of meetings with the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, today also demanded setting up of a broad-based commission of inquiry to probe the alleged atrocities. In a statement in New Delhi, Dr. Abdullah said he felt reassured during his meeting with the prime minister that Mr. Chandra Shekhar will oversee the Kashmir afffairs himself and take appropriate steps to restore peace in the valley.

Provincial Janata Dal Party Units Split

BK1911060290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The Janata Dal units of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan have formally split. In Maharashtra, the state unit of the Janata Dal formally split yesterday. At a meeting in Bombay, over 400 party workers announced formation of the Janata Dal-S. It was attended, among others, by the former state unit of the Janata Party and former Janata Dal legislator Mr. P.K. Anna Patil; former chief minister Mr. Babasaheb Ghonsle; former revenue minister Mr. Shalini Patil, and All India Janata Dal-S secretary Mr. Biswas Rao Patil. Mr. Anna Patil said after the meeting that the new party will offer its constructive support to the state government.

In Rajasthan, the Janata Dal has split into three groups with the formation of Janata Dal-S and Janata Dal-Digvijay Singh.

According to UNI [United News of India], the Janata Dal-S will function under the leadership of Mr. Kumbha Ram Arya. Another group led by former agriculture minister Mr. Digvijay Singh formed a regional party called Janata Dal-Digvijay Singh. The original Janata Dal is headed by Mr. Haridhi Ram Bagdok. According to the news agency, this was announced in Jaipur yesterday.

In Uttar Pradesh, the chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, will seek a vote of confidence in his council of ministers tomorrow. A two-day special session of the state assembly begins in Lucknow today. The house will be adjourned today after mourning the death of former

chief minister and veteran politician Kamlapati Tripathi and 19 other former members of the assembly.

As reported earlier, the irrigation minister in the Mulayam Singh Yadav ministry, Mr. Reuti Raman Singh, who had resigned recently, was elected leader of the dissident Janata Dal. With this the Janata Dal in the state has virtually split into two groups.

Activists of Banned Kashmir Front Arrested

BK1811161990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] In Jammu Division, Border Security Forces apprehended two activists of the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front in the Mendhar area of Rajaori sector last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them. During a preliminary interrogation, they disclosed that they crossed their way to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and were sent to a training camp where a large number of terrorists were undergoing arms training. They said they were given the task to create panic by grenade attacks and indiscriminate firing in public places.

Security Forces Kill 10 'Terrorists' in Kashmir

BK1811051190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, 10 terrorists were killed, two injured and 75 arrested in encounters with security forces at different places yesterday. Five terrorists who were trying to cross the actual line of control were killed when they were challenged by their security forces. The terrorists tried to flee toward the border. The security forces opened fire killing all of them. Fourteen AK-47 rifles, four machine guns, 17 rockets and four rocket launchers and a large quantity of ammunition and explosives were recoverd from them. The arrest of 75 terrorists were made in Baramula, Kupwara, and Sopore.

Police Seize Explosives at Kashmir Border

BK1911102190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police have seized 40 bags of explosives from a truck at the border (?toll) at Lakhanpur yesterday. These were being carried from Jaipur to Srinagar without valid permission. The driver and the cleaner of the truck have been arrested and the vehicle has been seized for further investigation in the case.

Sikh Militant Attacks on Joggers Leave 22 Dead

BK1711114490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Chandigarh, India, Nov 17 (AFP)—Suspected Sikh militants shot dead 22 people Saturday in two attacks on morning joggers in the northern Indian states of Punjab and Haryana, police and press reports said.

The shootings came as police killed seven militants in Punjab, where some Sikhs are campaigning for an independent homeland.

Four Sikh gunmen armed with automatic weapons opened fire on a group of joggers in the Dabwali Town of Haryana, killing 11 people. Earlier police reports had said 10 people died in the incident.

A police spokesman in Chandigarh, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, said 12 people were wounded in the shooting, six seriously.

In a similar incident, Sikh gunmen in a jeep shot dead 11 people and wounded nine in Killianwali village of Faridkot District in Punjab, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

PTI said seven suspected Sikh militants were killed in shootouts with security forces in Punjab, the rich agricultural state bordering Pakistan, PTI said.

More than 3,000 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the separatist campaign in Punjab.

The latest incidents, which indicated a step-up in the separatist campaign, came a day after India's new Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar won a vote of confidence in Parliament.

Iran

Velayati Returns, Comments on Iraqi Resolve

LD1611184990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, upon his return from Iraq, by unidentified reporter in Tehran on 16 November—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Reporter] In view of the talks which you had with the Iraqi president, do the Iraqis intend not to withdraw from Kuwait?

[Velayati] It is not possible to exclude either one of two possibilities. It cannot be said it is like this and not like that. What are these two possibilities? One is that they will remain in Kuwait and put into practice what they have announced in slogans; that is, the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. The second is withdrawal from Kuwait.

In the talks, they were more open about one of the two possibilities; that is, the first one. As for the second, they did not reject it; that was one's feeling. I believe that they will gradually become aware that neither the world nor the region will accept that occupation and that annexation. That is not something which will change over time.

An attempt to combine this matter with the colonialist wishes of some imperialist governments such as that of the United States will not solve the problem. In other words, if the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, everyone knows that the

Islamic Republic of Iran is not saying that under the influence of imperialist governments. You will not find a more independent government in the world than the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Our stance is clear.

If we accept the principle of the integrity of borders and nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries, if we consider this to be an important principle in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, then occupation by anyone is condemned. The excuse has been made that the Government of Kuwait was like this or like that—let us say that that assumption and that occupation [as heard] are right; nevertheless, that has nothing to do with the people of Kuwait.

These matters—that is, on the one hand the criticisms of the legitimacy of the Kuwaiti Government; and on the other, the presence of the United States and its allies, and their aggressive presence in various countries, including in this region—none of these is proper justification for the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq. These matters should not be mixed up.

How can it be possible that, in such a sensitive region, countries should choose to do whatever they want on the basis of their own judgement at the expense of occupying another country? It would be impossible for such a sensitive region to have any security.

Let met say at the same time that, from the beginning, we separated our own peace talks from the issue of the crisis in the region. Let me also stress that bilateral relations with Iraq and goodneighborliness are progressing well, following the implementation of a significant part of UN Resolution 598. The two countries' ties are progressing more rapidly than was imagined and we welcome that.

[Reporter] Considering that you stayed in Iraq for two days, please give your assessment of the situation in Iraq, especially after the economic embargo against Iraq.

[Velayati] The rulers of Iraq themselves did not hide the fact that, finally, this economic embargo has affected them. This is completely natural. Having said that, in our meetings at least, they were trying to show that their will to continue on the path that they have chosen is unshakable.

At the same time, we did not hesitate to stress to them, while considering the positive atmosphere of the negotiations and the positive trend in the developing relations of the two countries, the principles in which we believe. The borders and the territorial integrity of countries must be respected, and the principle of noninterference in other countries' internal affairs must be respected. We, the Islamic Republic of Iran, considered and still consider Kuwait to be an independent country. We believe that its independence must be restored. Incidentally, we believe this will also benefit the Iraqi people since it will remove the excuse of the foreigners, especially the Americans, for their unjustified presence in the region. By God, no one knows what will happen in the future, and this does not benefit the countries of the region.

In any case, the embassies of the two countries have reopened. The work concerning the expansion, consolidation, and strengthening of bilateral relations is rapidly continuing. [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Views Failure of Summit Proposal

LD1711132690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The plan for an Arab summit proposed by Hassan II, the king of Morocco, to solve the Middle East crisis, is facing final defeat as a result of the opposition of both groups of Arab countries—those who are for and those who are against Iraq. The failure of this plan, which in the view of many political commentators is tantamount to closing the file on an Arab solution to the crisis of the occupation of Kuwait, is in fact a response to the Soviet Union, France, and others that one cannot be hopeful about an Arab solution for the current crisis.

The failure of this plan could have been clearly anticipated in advance. Iraq, which would be a major participant in such a conference, was confident that if a summit were held its consequences would not be to Iraq's advantage: Either it would have to withdraw from Kuwait, or another resolution would be added to previous resolutions condemning Iraq. Therefore, without directly opposing such a conference but by raising many unacceptable preconditions, Iraq removed the possibility that such a conference would be held. Meanwhile, it seems that if some of the pro-Iraqi countries, such as Yemen and Sudan as well as the PLO, agreed to holding a conference, this was so the pro-Iraqi group would not be regarded as the main cause of the failure of that proposal. The file on an Arab solution—which would naturally be a nonmilitary solution—would therefore not be closed.

Iraq and a number of Arab countries supporting it believe that the natural consequence of closing all the doors on an Arab solution to the Persian Gulf crisis would mean the complete failure of the international group supporting Iraq; namely, the Soviet Union, France, and, to some extent, China [sentence as heard]. Consequently, the file relating to the solution of the crisis will be transferred from the Arab world to the West, or to international organizations. Under those circumstances, it would be the turn of international organizations or the Security Council to try to find a final solution for the crisis. There are different plans in that context. Certain powers, such as the Soviet Union and France, are in favor of forming an international force under UN supervision on the basis of Article 42 of the UN Charter. The UN secretary general also supports that plan.

Meanwhile, America is pushing for a resolution authorizing the use of force agains Iraq. In other words, America is looking for freedom of action or an endorsement by the Security Council. Its rivals would, however, favor the formation of a military force that would take military action, if necessary, under the aegis of the Security Council.

As the consequences of the failure of the plan by Hassan II, the king of Morocco, became clear, Baker, America's secretary of state, prepared to have talks with the British, French, and Soviet foreign ministers during his European tour, to pave the way for a military resolution against Iraq in keeping with his views.

In any case, the struggle has entered a new phase and the solution to the crisis has been passed on from the Arab world to international organizations. The final outcome of this struggle will dominate the situation in the region. On the whole, it seems that international action will be further intensified with the continuation of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and the region will once again move a step closer to a military solution or, at least, to increased tension.

President Receives New Kuwaiti Ambassador

LD1911110990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received this morning Fawzi al-Jasim, the new Kuwaiti ambassador, when he submitted his credentials. In the meeting President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed regret about the situation facing the Kuwaiti people and expressed the hope that that country's problems will be resolved as soon as possible and that its Muslim people will be able to live in their country in full security and peace.

According to the report, at the beginning of the meeting the new Kuwaiti ambassador conveyed the warm greetings of the amir of Kuwait and presented a report to our country's president about the current situation of Kuwait and its people. He added: We are happy to express our heartfelt congratulations to the friendly fraternal government nation of Iran for the Islamic Republic of Iran's victories in regaining its territory and POW's from Iraq and in the reimplementation of the 1975 [Algiers] accord under the leadership of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, his eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He also expressed gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's open and clear stance on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

Daily Calls for International Defense of Iraq

LD1711084490 Tehran IRNA in English 0653 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—An Iranian daily Saturday [17 November] came out in favour of sending contingents for the defense of Iraq by anti-U.S. countries in the area and beyond such as Iran as to prevent destabilization of regional countries in case of a war. [sentence as received]

The editorial in the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' referring to Washington's imperial designs, suggested, "Iran, Yemen, Libya, Algeria, Sudan and even Cuba, North Korea and Vietnam should consider sending contingents for the defense of Iraq."

Because, it reasoned, "If Iraq is broken, then all the countries listed become much susceptible to American military pressure and none in a more direct manner than the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The paper, however, reiterated, "This does not imply a defense of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait," and continued, "The foreign contingents would be deployed only in Iraq proper."

The editorial concluded that if war comes to the region "an American victory will be parlayed into effect to destabilize all the regimes deemed hostile to U.S. purposes. At the same time the idea of having to join battle with North Africans, Iranians, Cubans, Arabs and Orientals once they cross into Iraq will act as a credible deterrent to Mr. Bush's dreams of turning the entire Persian Gulf into an enormous and oil-rich banana republic."

London Embassy Denies UK Radio Report on Cooper

LD1711081190 Tehran IRNA in English 0618 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] London, Nov. 17, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy in London has denied a claim by London's LBC radio on Friday [16 November] afternoon, that Iran has linked the release of British prisoner in Iran with the freeing of Mehrdad Kowkabi, an Iranian student who has been jailed in Britain since last December.

The embassy's spokesman answering an IRNA enquiry on Friday evening, categorically denied the LBC report and added any statement along such line is false and not the position of the Government of Iran.

Roger Cooper, a British journalist disguising himself as a businessman was arrested in Tehran in 1985 during the war between Iraq and Iran. He has confessed without any duress to his espionage activities on the Iranian television many times after his arrest.

Ayatollah Yazdi Gives Friday Sermon 16 Nov

LD1611152890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1207 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Second Friday sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 16 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the second sermon I have prepared several topics, but it seems there will not be enough time. I will, therefore, try to summarize each topic in a few sentences. These topics are in two parts. The first part is about the issues outside the country, and the second concerns domestic issues.

In the part on the issues outside the country, the first topic is about the clear stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] regarding the Persian Gulf crisis. The region had not reached full tranquillity [after the Iran-Iraq war]

when the arrogant plots created a new crisis in the region; and this crisis is daily becoming more grave.

As we are all witnessing, the shuttle [diplomacy], meetings, visits, and talks have not been effective. Nevertheless, there is a point regarding which no one has any doubts, and that is: An outbreak of war in the region, no matter how it starts and by whichever side, will be highly dangerous and destructive. It will inflict immense damage and will bring countless casualties. Most of these losses will be suffered by the inhabitants of this region, the Muslims and the world of Islam.

The clear and decisive stance of the IRI, declared without any reservations, has been that the Iraqi Government should withdraw from Kuwait; and occupation of others' territory is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated under any circumstances; and basically the act of occupation and hegemony, in any form, is wrong and is condemned in our opinion. Iraq should really come to its senses sooner or later, and this great catastrophe which is threatening the region now, and it is possible to set off a huge and detrimental explosion by striking a match, that one can claim that none of the parties involved could harness, determine its extent and duration. [sentence as heard] It will not be possible to end this [explosion] easily. The presence of the foreign forces in the region does not have a proper raison d'etre either. The people of the region should make decisions on the security of the region themselves. The responsible authorities of the country have declared this clear and decisive stance repeatedly. The future will make it clear how effective the security council resolutions and all the comings and goings can be.

Is the world ready for a war, which one can say will turn into the third world war, or not? What after all is the task of these vast and bureaucratic organizations which have been established to control these aggressions? Had they acted properly in the past, they would have not faced this grave crisis today. At any rate, past deeds have led to the creation of this crisis today, and we hope it will be solved in a manner that serves the interests of humanity, Islam, and the Muslims.

The second issue concerns the savage attacks of the soliders of the usurping Zionist government on the struggling and revolutionary Palestinian youths. Every day we witness barabaric crimes, some of which one can say are without historical precedent. More will be said about it in the Arabic sermon, but here I will only say a couple of sentences. The steadfast Palestinian Muslims should know that when pressure and suppression increase, this by itself is proof that their resistance has been effective. As the enemy sees that such resistance is effective, both on the spot and throughout the region and the world, it increases its pressure. Greater pressure should not have any effect on the level of resistance. On the contrary, our Muslim, steadfast, Palestinian youths should know that they have chosen a correct path and that the continuation of this path will, God willing, achieve final results sooner or later.

As for the issue of Lebanon, a trend of stability and consolidation exists there. All of us have been informed of the agreements which, as the result of the efforts of the Islamic Republic and the Syrian Government, have been reached between the two groups of Muslims who, from time to time, clashed with one another. These clashes continued, and it was often urged that there should not be any fratricide among the Muslims. Fortunately, we have reached a stage at present in which we hope the peace trend will advance successfully. We hope the rights of the Lebanese Muslims, especially after so much struggle and resistance, in the established ruling system of Lebanon will be a clear and definite right.

The next issue is the issue of Kashmir. All of us have heard about recent developments which have led to some changes. We should learn a lesson from these changes. Briefly, I wish to say that it is the plan of world arrogance to always create dissention, fighting, and disagreement among various groups in the Third World so they will clash with each other and attack and kill and burn each other. The greatest use has been made especially of religious differences and religious groups. The records of religious and group clashes and battles in India are very clear. Now recently, when the issue between the Muslims and the Hindus had reached a dangerous point in Kashmir, you noticed how far it went. We hope that the end of this matter would not be in the form of passing a judgement about a mosque. The issue should end in such a way that the root of future differences and clashes may be eliminated. The issue is not about a minor, specific issue. The Muslims of the world, with their religious Islamic belief that all Muslims are one, all are brothers—if a Muslim anywhere in the world has an anxiety or a difficulty, this is a difficulty for all Muslims throughout the world—with such a belief Muslims are waiting to see how the issues are settled. The central Government of India should pay proper attention in case a temporary and local solution is not completly effective.

Concerning internal problems, in the first place, as can be seen from the remarks of the esteemed leader, may God extend his shadow, we praise the programs of the government of our very worthy brother, His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in both internal and external policies of the nation. After the general policy lines are drawn up by the esteemed leader, the internal and external policies are, and have been, executed in way that considers the position and dignity of this system across the world. It guards the dignity of the system that has gradually reached such a high level.

Concerning internal difficulties, we can gradually see the outcome of these policies now that they have been put into practice in different areas, including the economic arena. Last Friday [9 November], from this very same holy platform, he [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] thoroughly and clearly explained all the issues, particulariy the problem of controlling and reducing inflation. He explained the controlling of correct distribution policies, increasing

production, activating productive units and factories, eliminating redundant subsidies and replacing them with worthy subsidies, and other economic programs. He explained all these issues clearly to our people. If, after minor problems, we still see that difficulties exist—nobody claims there are no difficulties—but usually, for the administration of a country to lay out programs that are to work fundamentally, it is natural for this to take a certain amount of time. [sentence as heard] We hope that it will not be too long before our people can feel the outcome of these good and accurate policies in their noble lives, as many have already seen the outcome of these policies on the sociological level. We fully support, and have done so in the past, the correct policies of his government and the guidance that we have received from our honorable president. [passage omitted]

Allow me to say a few words about judicial matters, on the struggle against administrative corruption. We all heard the recent order from our esteemed president about administrative reform. Of course when he talked about reform, he spoke about the reform of the administrative system. I accept this, not the struggle against this form of corruption. Maybe the elimination of this form of corruption is the duty of the judicial branch of the nation. What has been recently talked about is the reform of the system. On the struggle against administrative corruption, you saw the media and the remarks made by the Mashhad prosecutor and the military prosecutor of Tehran. We have previously pointed out the general view that we hold on this matter. I would like to add that this applies to all institutions, to all offices and ministeries, even to the units under our countrol. A few days ago, we seriously confronted a character who vilified the majority of the sincere and noble judges. In a matter of a few days, the case against him was completed through law and handed over to the public prosecutor's office. [passage omitted] Why should the honor, character and dignity of those noble, sincere, devoted and hard-working judges—who follow their duty under difficult circumstances and to the best of their abilities—be blemished by the actions of one person. He has been confronted and fortunately, as I have already said, he has been handed over to the courts.

Confrontating society's corruptions [changes thought] I will just point to this case. Later, the authorities of the nation must clarify what is to be done with them. On one of the roads in the northern regions of our country, right in front of a military barracks, a so-called wedding procession stopped and a man and a women got out and behaved incorrectly. No reaction whatsoever was shown to their acts. The lady got in [the vehicle] and left. A day or two later I read this news in a special news sheet. Does this concern us; are there any shortcomings on our party? Or is it [the shortcoming] of security personnel? I ask the honorable Interior Minister to ask security personnel to perform their duties, especially in a crime with witnesses. Security personnel are obligated to confront witnessed crimes. The law is clear on this matter. One cannot wait for permission from the officials of the prosecutor's office.

I hope that this matter, too, is clarified as soon as possible. So that if it concerns one party, then that party would say it concerns that party.

After the honorable Majlis has approved [the bill]; has brought all the Armed Forces under one blanket, merged them, and placed them in the hands of the Interior Minister, how long must we wait for this deed and this approval to be implemented? Before the approval is implemented, what happens if the police say it concerns the committee, the committee says it concerns the police, they both say it concerns the police, all three say it concerns another party, and so on, and finally whenever a problem arises they say that the judiciary has not done its job? That was just an example. We hope that, God willing, the security officials follow the law, within the context of the penal code.

Another issue—time is running out, so I will be brief—is cultural corruption. I have been ordered to convey certain points to our honorable people, so I take this opportunity to do so. A book was published in the country. Then it was found to be full of Western culture and corrupt and deviant ideas. It is surprising that it had escaped the limits and restrictions on its publication and is freely circulated among the younger generation. In any case, as far as is in our power, it has been dealt with.

I thank the Forbidden Deeds section of the Tehran Revolution Prosecutor's Office for ascertaining particularly corrupt points in a number of books and limiting them, with the cooperation of the Management Center. The authorities have also promised more cooperation. God willing, we will not witness such incidents in the future.

There is another point. I have obtained the permission of the great leader, the commander in chief, and declare this here and now because of the adverse effects of this issue in the various corners of the country: As a result of the events in the early days of the victory of the revolution, certain ordinary people were in possession of weapons, or explosives. The war, too, may have contributed to it, and, knowingly or unwittingly, certain people, good or bad, individuals or gang members, and so forth, are in possession of unauthorized explosives or weapons. They are afraid that if they come forward to surrender them the authorities will question them as to where and when and why they obtained them, and create thousands of problems for them. Therefore, they go and dump them in municipality garbage dumps, at roadsides, or in alleys. This has resulted in a great deal of harm so far.

I declare, here and now, to anyone in possession of such items who is afraid of surrendering them to the authorities, to not be afraid and come forward and surrender their weapons to the relevant authorities. We call on those authorities to take delivery without asking where, when, and why, or causing trouble for them, and to alleviate their fears. [passage omitted]

When the honorable judges pass judgment, they are bound by law to issue the verdict. Failure to do so would be harmful for the enforcers and the convicts. I hope this is noted. [passage omitted]

*RESALAT Reports 25 Sep 90 Majles Session

91AS0060A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Sep 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Division—The Islamic Consultative Majles held an open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemian.

During this session, after remarks by the deputies of Lamard, Abadan, and Khorramshahr, the deputies' reminders to the executive officials were read and then the Majles session was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks by the preagenda speakers and the resolutions passed by the Islamic Consultative Majles:

Seyyed Razi Hoseyni, the Representative of the People of Lamard: Are Violations of Human Rights and International Boarders Condemned as a Matter of Principal or Only When the Interests of Big Powers are Endangered

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Hoseyni-al-Madani from the Lamard constituency who in his remarks stated: The recent global developments as a result of the Ba'th regime's despicable occupation of the small, American-servant nation of Kuwait, which was the principal supporter of the Iraqi imposed war against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the consequent military expedition of the global heretics—especially the American aggressors—requires investigations in several aspects. Mainly, it demonstrated the nobility, the awe, the strength, the resistance, the selflessness, and the capability of the regime and the heroic people of Iran. Finally, friend and foe, the West and the East, the right and the left, and the progressive and the reactionary, confessed that the Islamic republic was victimized and honorably defended its honor and Islamic tradition and after 10 years they admitted that the Ba'th regime was the aggressor. On the other hand, the mask was removed from the faces of international organizations, which are products of the superpowers, and their true nature was revealed to the whole world.

My question is that, you who make so much fuss about rights and humanity in connection with Iraq's aggression against Kuwait, why were your lips sealed and you kept silent during Iraq's attack on the Islamic revolution, Islam's land and the birthplace of the noble and, thus, with your silence endorsed the aggressor? Are violations of human rights and human dignity and transgressions against international boarders condemned and considered ugly and contemptible as a matter of principal or only when the interests of big powers are endangered and threatened? As it is obvious, the modus operandi of such organizations indicates that whensoever the interests of masters of wealth and power are endangered they get busy, start screaming, and start passing resolutions one after another. The point is that, as far as we are concerned the transgression of Iraq against Kuwait, for any reason and excuse, is condemned. Iraq must leave Kuwaiti territory and return to international boarders. However, the overwhelming and widespread aggression of satanic powers, especially the mischievous and aggressor America, against the sanctity of the Islamic world—especially the Hijaz territory and the sacred shrines—is an obvious disrespect to Islam, Muslims, and the sacredness of the prophet (God bless him and grant him salvation) and it is surprising that so-called Islamic countries have embraced aggression for the sake of a few days of miserable existence.

We do not have much to say to the governments and reactionary sheikhs, sycophants of America. However, we ask the Islamic nations why have they chosen silence? Why don't you protest against the naked aggression against Islam and Islamic countries. Why, regretfully, have the treacherous so-called Islamic leaders of Hijaz and the grand sheikh of al-Azhar issued decrees to the effect that the presence of foreign forces in Hijaz to defend the holy shrines and repel aggression is permissible? How can America—which possesses instigation, aggression, and breaking down of the oppressed and Muslims as its inherent characteristic—stop aggression? Shame on you for dishonoring the Muslims in such a way and, instead of inviting the people from all across the Muslim world to rise against American aggression, shamelessly accept the aggression by the aggressor. You will not have any way to exonerate yourselves before the prophet and you shall be shamed and disgraced.

He then addressed the theological seminary students, especially the Qom Theological Center, and said: Your cries of "death to America" in the streets of the city of blood and revolt will certainly please the spirit of our passed imam. It shall begin a new chapter for millions of masses and shall invite the whole of the Islamic world to confront the American aggression.

Mr. Hoseyni added: Nowadays, some people have dared to disrespect the sanctity of the exalted teachers of the theological seminaries and, especially, the Qom Theological Center. They must know that demeaning the teachers is indeed demeaning the theological centers and the demeaning of Islam and credibility of Islamic scholars. Come to your senses and avoid such behavior that casts doubt upon Islam and the noble clergy who are in the line of the imam.

He added: The eminent leader of the revolution issued the decree for jihad. All Muslims are duty bound to respond to the call of the leader of the Muslims and erase the stains of dishonor which have smeared the honor of all Muslims as a result of this aggression against the sanctity of Islam. Therefore, it requires the mass mobilization of the Islamic nation to lash out against American interests all over the world and, especially, the Middle East.

He added: From here I declare to the aggressor America and the chief of all transgressing powers to get lost and get out of the Islamic land and the Persian Gulf. The Islamic nation will not tolerate you. the hezbollah of the region is waiting in ambush and will hunt you down. The same fate that befell you in Lebanon—where your ashes were blown in the wind and you had to leave Lebanon miserably and shamefully—is awaiting you now.

In another part of his remarks, he called upon the officials to consider the views of His Eminence the late Imam, may his spirit be place in heaven, and with the special attention of the exalted leadership intensify the efforts for the creation of the twenty-million-member army.

Then, Mr. Hoseyni reminded the government: Administrative corruption and bribery are rampant in government offices and thus have caused pessimism toward Islam and the revolution. Therefore, the administrative revolution is inevitable. As a matter of fact, the structural composition of many of the existing organizations are not suitable to the revolution or befitting the position of the Islamic Republic.

Concluding his remarks, the representative of the people of Lamard objected to the recent appointments in the education and training office of Hormozegan province and asked that the minister of education and training investigate the situation in the education and training office of the province and Lamard city region.

Sa'id Ansari, the Representative of the People of Abadan: The People of Abadan Rightly Expect, After War-time Patience and Perseverance and the Recent Withdrawal of Enemy Forces, To Return to Their Former Habitat

Mr. Ansari, the representative of the people of Abadan, was the second pre-agenda speaker. In his speech, while honoring the first day of the month of Mehr [23 September] which is the opening day of schools and universities, he remarked about the reconstruction of schools in the city region of Abadan and said: A city region which used to have the best schools in the country and was the best school region, regretfully at present lacks educational, workshop, and welfare facilities. Here, I must thank Mr. Habibollahian, the esteemed administrator of the Organization for Construction, Rehabilitation, and Equipping of National Schools, and Engineer Bozorgizadeh for his trip to Abadan and his positive commitment to resolve the problems and difficulties. Fortunately, what is commendable is the warm response of the dedicated teachers and the pious employees of the education and training offices of Abadan and Arvandkenar to return to their own city regions. This has resulted in the presence of over 10,000 students in Abadan and the surrounding villages. As a result of the overwhelming desire of the citizens of Abadan to return, this figure will certainly double or quadruple. Therefore, I shall remind the officials of the Education and Training Ministry in Tehran to be prepared for mobilization of rehabilitation. I also request that the esteemed petroleum minister and the governor-general of Khuzestan take serious action in regard to the transfer of the oil company housing and teachers of the Education and Training Ministry.

Mr. Ansari offered his congratulations for the arrival of the brave POW's and emphasized: The arrival of these brave loved ones added to the honor and prestige of the noble Iranian nation and the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic. The sacrifices and resistance of these heroes are signs of the victory that has been achieved by the heroic Iranian nation. These loved ones, with their resistance and steadfastness while captive in the talons of unjust transgressors, and their esteemed families, with their patience, brought with them lessons of patience, sacrifice, perseverance, and steadfastness for all of the Iranian nation. The heroic nation and the esteemed government must receive these loved ones with full honors, as the revolutionary Majles passed a law concerning the POW's, and take advantage of their blessed selves in reconstruction endeavors.

In another part of his remarks, he referred to the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf and stated: Firstly, the military expedition into Kuwait was not a wise move and contrary to the good neighborly conducts between two Muslim countries. Saddam must leave Kuwait expeditiously and has no other way. We, the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation, and other revolutionary and Muslim nations cannot witness the filthy and drunk American soldiers, accompanied by booze and corruption, roam around in the land of Hijaz and the land of the two sacred shrines. The presence of these wild animals in this sacred land is as a result of Kuwait's occupation by Saddam. We believe the American presence in the land of Hijaz is an excuse for their permanent presence in the region. Saddam's withdrawal from Kuwait and Americans fast departure from the holiest land in the world (the house of God) will be achieved only through cooperation, coordination, and joint efforts of the regional countries with Islamic Iran leading them. The military expedition of the world to the Persian Gulf is senseless. The reactionary sheikhs in the region and Saddam were the main reasons behind America's arrival into the Persian Gulf.

The speaker added: The Islamic Persian Gulf, which always and throughout centuries, has been called the Persian Gulf...some foreign radios refer to it as the Arabian Gulf. I declare from the sacred and free pulpit of the Islamic Consultative Majles...you who have sold yourselves to the West and the East...you the hired sheikhs and kings...you who lack any authority of your own...choke your evil voices in your throats and know that the Persian Gulf is always the Persian Gulf. Also, once more, we condemn the American presence in the sacred land of Hijaz and want the American King Fahd to wipe the land of Hijaz clean of these wild and filthy animals as soon as possible and do not bring this shame upon himself, other rulers of Hijaz, and all the reactionaries who have sold themselves. Otherwise, the revolutionary Muslims and free Muslim nations will deal with you and these aggressors decisively and in a revolutionary fashion.

The representative of the people of Abadan said: With the grace of God, all the legitimate wishes of the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been realized, all the land under Iraqi occupation has been reclaimed and the issue of POWs is in the process of final resolution. The enemies of Islamic Iran have left the beloved land but, regretfully and despite my repeated follow-up and the good faith exercised by the esteemed president of the Islamic Republic, still large residential areas of Abadan and Khorramshahr city regions are off limits. Unfortunately, so far, no one has offered any reason for this. As the representative of the noble people of Abadan city region, here I request from the beloved leader of the Islamic Revolution, the light of hope for the Muslim nation of Iran and world Muslims and the commander in chief of the armed forces to issue his final and decisive decree concerning the extrication of the off limits areas so that the people's problem is solved. After putting up with 10 years of homelessness, two years after the acceptance of the UN resolution and withdrawal of enemy forces from the Islamic motherland the noble people of Abadan city region rightly expect to return to their former habitat. They are tired of homelessness. Therefore, expediting the resolution of this problem will result in expediting reconstruction activities. There are no more excuses for keeping the area off limits.

In connection with the Assembly of Experts elections, Mr. Ansari remarked: The Assembly of Experts elections is an important affair and the noble people of Iran, considering their revolutionary zeal and presence on the scene, will go to polling stations on 8 October to cast their ballots to elect their representative for the Assembly of Experts. I request from the noble Iranian nation, especially the steadfast people of Khuzestan—and the people of Abadan in particular—to actively participate in this important, divine, political, and social affair. With their participation, they will deal a blow against the superpowers. The election of these representatives will be one of the most important feats because they are the ones who will select the leader.

In conclusion, he gave some notices to the executive officials concerning the problems facing his constituency.

Yunes Mohammadi, the Representative of the People of Khorramshahr: Just As During the War When Resources Poured Into the War-stricken Areas, the Same Should Be Done Today

The last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Mohammadi from the Khorramshahr constituency.

He pointed out the coincidence of the freedom of the POW's with the commemoration of Holy Defense Week and said: This year we celebrate Holy Defense Week at a time when we have tasted the sweetness of victory and our eyes have been lit with the light of seeing the dear POWs, and their blessed arrival has adorned our cities. Blood has won over sword, and innocence has gained victory over injustice. The enemies of Islam are, themselves, punishing each other. However, our nation should not think that war is altogether over because the old enemy of the Islamic Revolution, meaning the world-purveyor America and its lackeys, have launched on a military expedition to the Persian Gulf and have turned it into an arsenal of weapons. At the same time our untrustworthy neighbor has achieved dominance over 250 km of the southern strip of the Persian Gulf and, if it remains there, it will be detrimental to us. We must be alert and not fall asleep under the influence of the lullaby of peace. We must maintain our combat readiness and fighting capability and the esteemed officials must assign more importance to defense capability.

In another part of his speech, the speaker pointed out the duties of officials toward the people and said: Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution and after the victory, in order to insure its stability, our nation sacrificed everything and came out of all the tests proudly. Now is the turn of the esteemed officials and servants of the sacred Islamic Republic regime to go through tests and reward kindness in kind. High prices and administrative corruption have caused deep indignation among our revolutionary people. As the esteemed Majles and the accommodating government were able to destroy the revolution's big enemies during the past years, they can also correct the wrongs caused at the hands of the known enemies or ignorant friends with the sword of sacred laws of Islam. As they destroyed safe-houses and all those terrorist grouplets, they can also destroy bribe-takers, hoarders, and price gougers—on the condition that inflation-causing bills and plans are not approved by the Majles and the esteemed government prevents the increase in prices of some of the public sector's services, especially since the civil servants and the downtrodden "bear the bulk of the hardships." Material poverty and weakness of conviction cause corruption. Like a human body, every regime possesses eyes with which it distinguishes the pitfalls on a road. If one's eyes are closed, the possibility of falling into ditches increases. Every system possesses a method by which shortages, difficulties, inadequacies, and violations can be detected. The eyes of our sacred regime are: the Islamic Consultative Majles, the National Inspector General, the Auditing Agency, The Principal 90 Commission, the Commission to Investigate Questions, and the Council for Administrative Justice. If we had stressed on supervision and if the supervisory organizations were supported and strengthened in various dimensions and they, in turn, had fulfilled their obligations decisively without indulgence and had been removed from political and factional considerations our nation would not fall prey to all these problems. Violators must be dealt with decisively and without consideration for their affiliation in order to prevent their encouragement. During three legislative terms, the Majles has been successful. However, is the esteemed Majles informed about what has happened to its passed resolutions? Does it know if they have been implemented or not or are the violators dealt with decisively?

The representative of the people of Khorramshahr complained about the officials' lack of attention to the plight of the war refugees and said: The refugees of the imposed

war, from the start of the war, have suffered much hardship, damage, and pains and have innocently carried on their shoulders the problems of war and homelessness. They await a word of kindness during the Friday Prayer sermons, pre-agenda remarks, interviews, and speeches in order to soothe their heartache. However, regretfully, it is as if they have been forgotten or, even worse, they do not exist. I do not know what will happen if beside the praise for and glorification of martyrs, their exalted families, the POWs, and the MIAs the war refugees are also mentioned? For the past 10 years they have put up with shortages and the inadequacies of living in camps with thousands of shortcomings and not only have they not been a burden to the system, but also they have always been a friend to it. The esteemed officials of the regime should not forget the role of refugees and their plight in the history of the war. The commemoration of the Week of War has repeated 10 times but not a single word has been uttered about the war refugees and the hardships they have endured as a result of the war with enemies of Islam.

I request that officials try to alleviate the shortcomings and inadequacies. I extend my thanks to the esteemed deputies who voted for the double-urgency plan to prevent the eviction of the refugees' residential dwellings. We hope that in the current year the council of ministers and the Islamic Consultative Majles allot a suitable budget in order to solve the problems of the refugees and the Refugee Affairs Foundation takes appropriate steps to resolve the problems rather than cutting services and stipends.

The speaker pointed to the reconstruction activities and, while thanking the officials involved, described the pace of the reconstruction activities as slow. He said: Regretfully, the way the reconstruction is proceeding, it is hundreds of steps from the return of the people to their former habitats. People are impatient to return and reconstruct their villages and towns. To them no excuse is convincing. This is at a time when reconstruction of towns and villages has faced difficulties ranging from shortages of building materials, machinery, and expert forces. Presently, in the city of Khorramshahr there are 15,000 reconstruction application files but, according to the esteemed president, to reconstruct Khorramshahr the shortages of building materials and machinery have crippled the efforts. I request for action in accordance with the valuable remarks of the late Islamic leader who said: "Consider reconstruction as something in the same order as war." It means that, just as during the war when resources from all across the country were funneled into the war zones, the same should be the case today. At least one month supply of materials for all the country should be allocated for the war-damaged cities that were destroyed for the sake of this sacred regime. I request that the reconstruction of the oil industry be used as a model. Experts, laborers, and officials in charge of refineries all across the country were able to complete the first phase of rehabilitation of Abadan refinery in six month, which is commendable. I do not wish for anyone's rights to violated. All the esteemed officials are sincerely trying, but shortages have reached a point where all efforts are spoiled and, thus, disappoint the people. I request from His Excellency Mr. Mirzadeh to pay attention to the problems of the appointed headquarters. [sentence as published] The objective for formation of these headquarters was to assist and aid the dear compatriots. However, presently, the appointed headquarters are acting like contractors. It means that they utilize the budget approved by the Islamic Consultative Majles, while they should be working with reliance on popular assistance. I ask the gracious people of Tehran, who are honored with the task of reconstructing Khorramshahr, not to forget the reconstruction. The appointed headquarters of Tehran must transfer all of its resources to Khorramshahr. Also, investigations into the cause of suspicious fires in this region which destroyed large parts of date palm plantations must be authorized.

He also pointed out the start of the academic year in Khorramshahr with its 4,000 students and asked the officials of the Education and Training Ministry to commend the heads of the education and training offices of the province and the city of Khorramshahr, as well as the teachers.

Deputies' Memos to the Executive Officials

- Mr. Morsali, the Abhar deputy: To the interior minister and the commerce minister in regard to immediate investigation of the lapse in import of aluminum extrusions into Abhar city region. To the interior minister concerning the expeditious investigation of the situation in the quake-stricken areas attached to Soltanieh of Abhar and other villages, and also the inappropriate behavior of executive officials of Abhar city region and the Martyrs Foundation towards the families of martyrs.
- Mr. Kazemi-Dinan, the Amol deputy: To the culture and higher education minister and the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution concerning expediting the inauguration of the Mohammad Jalil Tabari University of Amol. To the commerce minister concerning the creation of Amol's commerce office.
- Mr. Jahangiri, the Jiroft deputy: To the petroleum minister concerning the resolution of shortage of liquefied gas in Jiroft city region.
- Mr. Partow, the Qeydar deputy: To the roads and transport minister for paving the Qeydar-Zarrinabad road and repairing the Mahmoudabad-Qeydar and the Soltanieh-Qeydar road and installation of the asphalt factory of Qeydar-Abhar road. To the education and training minister concerning the removal of the head of the education and training office of Qeydar.
- Mr. Shahraki, the Zabol deputy: To the petroleum minister concerning the serious follow up on diesel and heating fuel provisions for the Sistan region.
- Mr. Hedayati, the Fereydunshahr deputy: To the agriculture minister for provision of 2,000 tons shortage of chemical fertilizer, prizes for the potato farmers, and support of them. To the education and training minister to support the labor office of the

teacher training centers of Fereydun, providing the service vehicles needed by the education and training offices of four regions. To the reconstruction jihad minister for expediting the road construction activities in villages, increasing the share of road-building resources, and strengthening the reconstruction jihad office of Fereydun and Fereydunshahr.

- Mr. Mohaqqer, the Bojnurd deputy: To the agriculture minister to expedite the formation of agricultural cooperatives for cattlemen and fruit growers of Bojnurd, to support the agricultural cooperatives of summer-harvesters, potato growers, and cotton growers of Bojnurd, and the cattlemen. To expedite the transfer of land needed for the construction of the residential township of Jajam's aluminum plant.

Laws Sanctioned by the Majles

The first item on the agenda during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was the attachment of a single note, as Note Three, to Article Nine of the Landlord-Tenant Law which had passed on 3 May 1983. The double urgency provision of this plan had been approved during the previous session.

After discussions and investigation by the deputies, the single article and two notes were passed.

Article One: The following two notes shall be attached as Notes Three and Four.

Note Three: In cases where the court considers issuing decrees for eviction of dwellings used by the refugees of the imposed war, in the case of lack of a suitable place, hardship, or no fault, it is obligated to refrain from issuing the eviction decree for a maximum of two years, starting 25 September 1990, in order to allow for alleviation of the hardship and resolution of the no fault status.

Note Four: In the cities, counties, and villages where the inhabitants migrated due to the imposed war and presently reside in government buildings, as soon as new dwellings or their old residences are prepared—upon the announcement of the views of officials in the war-stricken provinces and confirmation by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs—it is required that the refugees of the imposed war evacuate the government buildings.

The second item on the agenda was the continuation of investigation of the first round of deliberations by the joint commission of energy and public health and hygiene concerning the disapproval of the plan for attaching several notes to Articles 21 and 33 of the Just Water Distribution Law passed on 6 March 1983.

After remarks and expression of views by the opponents and proponents, the generalities of the plan was put to vote but did not pass.

The next item on the agenda was the report of the commission tasked with composing the internal guidelines of the Islamic Consultative Majles, which the continuation of its investigation was postponed until the next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Pakistan

UN Endorses Pakistan Proposal on Nuclear Arms

BK1611133990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] The UN General Assembly's Main Committee has endorsed a Pakistan proposal calling for an early agreement to assure nonnuclear weapons states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. It will now come up for vote in the General Assembly later this month, recommending that Geneva-based conference on disarmament actively continue negotiations to reach such an agreement. The draft resolution containing the proposal was prepared after intense negotiations between Pakistan and Bulgaria and was cosponsored by eight other nations.

Sudanese President Begins Two-Day Visit

BK1611144890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The Sudanese president, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a two-day visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The airport ceremonies included playing of national anthems of the countries, a guard of honor by a contingent of three services, followed by a march past. [passage omitted]

Meets Ishaq Khan

BK1611153190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 90

[Text] Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad a short while ago. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic correspondent has learned that during this meeting, views were exchanged on bilateral, regional, and international issues, including the Gulf crisis. Pakistan and Sudan share identical views on regional and international issues.

Feted by Ishaq Khan

BK1711084190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Pakistan and Sudan have pledged to work together to boost their cooperation at bilateral and international levels. This was conveyed by the heads of the two countries at a banquet hosted by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in honor of General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir in Islamabad last night. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said that Pakistan and Sudan desire speedy socioeconomic progress in their countries and a peaceful external atmosphere, adding that these common objectives provide a basis for close cooperation

between the two countries. The president said that Pakistan highly values Sudan's consistent and solid support to the rights of the Afghan people for restoring Afghanistan's independence and its Islamic status. Pakistan also appreciates the fact that Sudan has adopted a principled and unambiguous stand on resolving the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN resolutions. Such a categorical declaration by Sudan constitutes a source of inspiration for the Kashmiri people facing extremely unfavorable conditions and at the present critical time, the president added.

President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir said that Sudan and Pakistan will seek new avenues of cooperation between the people of the two countries by promoting the existing ties. Sudan will avail of the Pakistani expertise in training manpower in the fields of technological development and exploitation of natural resources. The Sudanese president praised President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for fulfilling his pledge to conduct free and fair elections for transferring the power to elected representatives of the Pakistani people. The banquet was attended among others by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, and National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan.

Concludes Visit

BK1711104690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir was given a cordial send-off, when he left Islamabad for home this afternoon after a two-day visit to Pakistan. He was seen off by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Earlier, the Sudanese president held talks with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad. The talks lasted for two hours this morning. Radio Pakistan's representative reports that both the leaders exchanged views in detail on bilateral relations, regional and international issues, and the Gulf situation. The talks were held in a most cordial atmosphere, and the views of the two leaders on all the issues were identical.

Press Statement Issued

BK1711142890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Pakistan and Sudan have reiterated their determination to promote and stabilize bilateral relations on various sectors. They have agreed on setting up of a joint ministerial commission to increase bilateral cooperation. A press statement, issued simultaneously from Islamabad and Khartoum after the Sudanese president's visit to Pakistan today, says at their talks in Islamabd, President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir and the Pakistani leaders also exchanged views on regional and international issues. Pakistan apprised the Sudanese president of the dangerous situation arising out of the Indian atrocities on the Kashmiri people. Pakistan and Sudan have stressed the immediate need for honoring the basic human rights of the Kashmiri people and reiterated that the Kashmir issue should be peacefully solved according to the relevant UN resolutions.

President Wants Peaceful End to Gulf Crisis

BK1811114590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has reiterated Pakistan's principled stand for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. Talking to a delegation of the European Economic Community ambassadors posted in Islamabad today, he said freedom and independence of all countries, big or small, is inviolable. Annexation of territories by force is totally unacceptable under international law.

The Italian ambassador, Mr. Fornara, who led the delegation, requested that Pakistan persuades for the release of foreign nationals. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan emphasized that concerted efforts should be made by the international community in this regard.

Sharif Leaves for Saudi Arabia Pilgrimage

BK1711162490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, left Karachi this evening for Saudi Arabia for performing umrah [minor pilgrimage].

Meets Kuwaiti Amir

BK1911155290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had detailed talks with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah on the regional issues with special reference to Iraqi occupation of Kuwait at al- Tai'f today. The prime minister assured the Amir of Kuwait that Pakistan will continue to support the efforts for restoring his country's independence and sovereignty. He expressed grave concern over Iraqi aggression and occupation of Kuwait. He said that Pakistan is ready to extend every possible help in improving the Gulf situation and restoring the sovereignty of Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti Amir thanked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for Pakistan's categorical stand and its support to the people of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti Amir also felicitated Nawaz Sharif on his election success and assumption of office of the prime minister of Pakistan. The Amir said that Pakistan and Kuwait have always cooperated with each other on bilateral and regional issues, adding that the cooperation will further develop and strengthen.

The prime minister arrived at al-Tai'f from the holy al-Madina where he was received by Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Salim al-Sabah and other Kuwaiti officials at the airport.

Bhutto Pleads Not Guilty to Misconduct Charges

BK1711123490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1219 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, Nov 17 (AFP)—Pakistani opposition leader and former Premier Benazir Bhutto pleaded not guilty when she appeared in a special court here Saturday to answer charges of misconduct.

She said accusations she attempted while in power to allot land cheaply for a hotel project in Islamabad to a company owned by a cousin was malicious and baseless, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) reported.

Ms. Bhutto, 37, sacked in August by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on charges of corruption and abuse of power, is facing seven charges in two of the 11 special tribunals set up before the October 24 elections.

The cases were meant to "oust" her from politics, said Ms. Bhutto whose party was defeated by the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Ms. Bhutto faces disqualification from politics for seven years if found guilty in any one of the cases.

APP quoted her as telling the court that she had supported a plan for building a hotel in Islamabad because there were no good hotels in the capital to accomodate foreign dignatories.

Questioned by the single judge if she would like to be tried in the case, Ms. Bhutto replied that she had no other option.

On assuming the role of opposition leader in Parliament, Ms. Bhutto had urged the IJI government to withdraw the cases against her and other ministers and senior officials who had served in her government.

Bhutto Criticizes Petroleum Price Hike

BK1611141990 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Nov 15—PPP [Pakistan People's Party] Co-Chairman Benazir Bhutto has criticised the Government for raising the POL [petroleum, oil, and lubricants] prices by 41 percent unilaterally and without taking the Parliament in confidence.

In a statement on Thursday [15 November] she apprehended that the steep rise in the prices of POL products would result in "hyperbolic increase in the prices of all commodities".

Ms Bhutto's statement read:

"During the election campaign, we had made a categorical statement that the Caretakers had secretly assured the IMF to increase the prics of oil by 40 percent. Our fears have become today's realities and in utter disregard to the absorbing capacity of the people, the government has taken the unilateral decision to increase the prices of POL by 41 percent without even taking the Parliament in confidence.

"What is most surprising is the fact that just three days ago, it was reported that Mr Nawaz Sharif had disagreed with the ministry's proposal to increase the price by 40 percent, but just two days later the bureaucracy has prevailed to strangulate the people with a 41 percent price increase. This will result in hyperbolic increase in prices of all commodities and its ripples will be felt in all sectors of the economy, shooting high the rate of inflation which we had so skilfully controlled".

10 Officials Arrested for Election Fraud

BK1911102990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 19 Nov 90

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Nov 19 (AFP)—The Pakistani Government has suspended 10 officials in Balochistan Province for alleged electoral fraud in the October 24 and 27 elections, the province's new chief minister said.

The announcement Sunday by Taj Mohammad Jamali followed accusations by former Premier Benazir Bhutto of massive rigging in the elections that turned into a rout for her Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Mr. Hamali, who neither named the officials nor detailed the charges against them, said they had been suspended as a result of "public complaints" and ran the risk of being permanently dismissed from public service.

The Pakistani authorities have ordered polling to be held anew in several districts of Balochistan.

Mr. Jamali, a member of the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) that won the elections held after Ms. Bhutto's ouster, enjoys the support of the three PPP deputies elected to parliament from Balochistan.

Ms. Bhutto and a team of French observers from the International Federation of Human Rights said last month that the elections were marred by a highly sophisticated fraud system involving the police and members of the powerful Pakistani bureaucracy.

Another team of observers—mostly Americans from the National Democratic Institute—also reported "serious problems" in the October 24 general election, but said they did not believe these affected the outcome of the vote.

New Federal Minister for Kashmir Sworn In

BK1711160190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Nov 90

[Text] At a special function in the President's House in Islamabad this evening, the National Assembly member from Abbotabad, Sardar Mehtab Ahmad Khan, took the oath of office as federal minister. President Ghulam Ishaq Khan administered the oath to the new minister. He has been allotted the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.

IJI Student Wing Damages Hindu Temple

BK1611135990 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Nov 90 p 14

[Text] Lahore, Nov 15—A group of hundred youth, belonging to the students wing of a politico-religious party which is a component of the ruling IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] attacked a Hindu (Balmiki) temple at Ravi Road causing serious damage to its building.

The youth, riding three university buses, had brought with them spades, mattocks and certain quantity of kerosene oil and raising the slogan of 'Allah-o-Akbar'[God is great], they attacked the temple, known as Krishana Kali Devi Mandar, in retaliation for the desecration of Babri mosque by Hindu extremists in India.

The angry students beat up Balmiki trustee and a Muslim chowkidar [watchman] and took them away because they had put up resistance.

Subsequently, the youth surrounded the five-marla [local unit of land measurement] premises of the temple, put on fire its wooden doors and windows, razed to ground its boundary wall and pulled down the golden spiral. Later the utensils of the two inmates, including their bedding and pots, were burnt.

The 30-minute operation left the temple badly damaged. The students fled when they saw the Ravi Road police approaching. The police have registered a case against unknown persons under Sections 295 (desecration of a worship place) and 436 (damage to property) PPC [Pakistan Penal Code]. No arrests had been made till late night.

This was the fifth incident of its kind after the desecration of Babri mosque Earlier, Hindu and Christian places of worship and buildings were attacked and damaged in Hyderabad, Charsaddah, Peshawar, and Dera Murad Jamali in Balochistan.

The Bonded Labour Liberation Front of Pakistan has condemned the attacks on churches and temples, asserting that these were aimed at creating communal hatred, which would be dangerous for the unity of the country.

The Front's Chairman, Ehsanullah Khan, who is also founder of the Brick Kiln Labour Front, has urged the government to take action against people who were fanning hatred in the name of religion. He said the Front's 70 percent membership comprised either Christians or Hindus who happened to be the most oppressed class in the country. Their places of worship were being subjected to criminal acts for no fault of theirs.

Mr Ehsanullah demanded that the government ensure the security of life and property of the minority communities as enshrined in the Constitution.